A RELATION OF THE COASTS of AFRICK CALLED GUINEE:

WITH

A Description of the Countreys, Manners and Customs of the Inhabitants; of the productions of the Earth, and the Merchandise and Commodities [illegible] Historical Observations upon the Coasts.

Being Collected in a

VOYAGE

MADE

By the *Sieur Villault*, Escuyer, *Sieur de Bellefond*, in the years 1666, and 1667.

Written in French, and faithfully Englished.

LONDON,

Printed for *John Starkey* at the *Mitre* in *Fleet-Street* near *Temple-Bar*, 1670.

Villault

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A VOYAGE TO The Coasts of *Africk* called GUINEE.

With a discription of the several Countries, Fashions, and Manners of the People, the Fruit and Commodities of those parts, with the Trade and Commerce they afford.

THe Coasts of *Africk*, commonly called *Guinee*, comprehending a Tract of ground of seven hundred Leagues, from *Cap-verd* in the fourteenth degree of Nor-

thern latitude, and nintieth degree of longitude East: to *Cape Gonſalvo* in the firſt degree of Southern latitude and 29. and a half of Eaſtern longitude, are at preſent ſo little frequented by the French (and all from an opinion they have taken up of the Malignity of the aire) that it cannot (without great ſence and reluctancy) be conſider'd how long, and how unhappily they have been deſerted by them, and left as a prey to all other Nations, without reſerving ſo much as the leaſt ſhare in the moſt advantagious Commerce they afford.

I muſt confeſs (having the heart and paſſions of a Frenchman) I could not obſerve without great regret, the cunning, and artifice, wherewith the *Engliſh*, the *Hollander*, and the *Dane*, had poſſeſt us of the perniciouſneſs of the aire,

and

& the unwholſomneſs of the place, and that with ſo much ſubtilty, they had almoſt perſwaded us out of the whole Country, and to have given up thoſe few places which are ſtill in our power: a practice of that Moment, and importance to them all, that from their traffique upon theſe Coaſts alone (would they be ingenuous and confeſs) they muſt acknowledge they derive their moſt conſiderable profit and advantage.

And indeed what Frenchman is their in the world ſo ſtupid and impenitrable, that can behold ſeveral Bays along theſe Coaſts, (by the inhabitants called *Bayes de France*) and ſeveral Towns (as *Petit Diep* and others) declaring at this day the Genealogy of their founders, ſo intirely abandon'd by his Countrymen, that their is nothing remaining there now but

their name, and an indeleble desire in the natives, that they would Conquer them again; what Frenchman I say can consider this without remorse, or remember it without being affected.

True it is, in the time of the Civil wars wherewith it pleas'd God to afflict the Kingdom of *France* in the Reign of *Henry le Grand*, our expulsion in those parts was compleated, for having no leisure to reinforce such garrisons as we had there from the time of *Lewis* the Eleventh, we were forc'd out of them all and constrain'd to yeild possession to the *Portugais*, who at that time like an inundation overwhelm'd all we had formerly gain'd upon the *Golden Coast*, and for the better security of their Conquests, built a Castle called *St. George de la Mine*, of which I shall give a more ample discrip-

diſcription hereafter.

Yet, as an argument that our intereſt was conſiderable there once, and that our magnificence was ſuitable to our intereſt: it is worthy obſervation, that at this very day the *Dutch* make uſe of a fair Church built formerly by the *French*, ſtill Adorned with our Monuments and Arms, and the principal Battery they have towards the ſea, is ſtill by the Natives themſelves called *la batterie de Françes*.

Upon theſe Coaſts we had once the poſſeſſion of *Akara*, *Cormentin*, *Cape-corſe* and *Takorai*, at which laſt the *Swedes* rais'd a new Fort ſince that, and upon the ruines of ours; but their late wars in *Germany*, (like ours Wars in *France*) having caus'd it to be neglected, and been an occaſion of interrupting its ſupplies, it is demoliſh'd

as well as ours, and has nothing left now, but rubbish, to shew that ever it was there.

Besides this, we have suffered the Hollander to incroach upon us in our days, and to possess themselves of our plantation at *Commendo*, a Town some two leagues distance from the *Chasteau de la Mine*, but they were glad to attend the death of two Frenchmen who had lived there along time, built a fair house (of which there is nothing now standing but the walls) and comported themselves with that Candor and integrity to the Natives, that they gain'd the affections of them all, and have left such a perfume and reputation of the French behind them, the *Mores* do glory in being called by that name, and will still beat their drums after the mode of *France*.

Three Months in the year, the aire of this Country is dangerous, and no more, yet so little then, that with the least providence and moderation one may preserve himself as well as in *France*, and perhaps better, because we have several diseases which are familiar in *Europe*, that are utterly unknown in this Country.

But the truth is, this is but pretence, and the colluſion of the *Dutch* to put that into our heads, that seeing our commerce declining in those parts, they might not only eradicate all our thoughts of recovering it again, but all our regret and concernment for the loss of it, and they themselves go quietly away with the commerce of so many Kingdoms, which is so prodigiously rich, I shall only touch upon it *in transitu*, and not tell what I saw my self, least it

ſhould ſeem to be incredible.

Only this I ſhall be bold to offer to the conſideration of the world, whether 'tis probable the *Hollanders* (who are a people ſo ardently devoted to their intereſt and advantage, that there is ſcarce any body but knows it) would upon occaſion of ſurpriſing the *Fort* at *Cormentin* upon the Golden Coaſt which was formerly theirs, have ventured upon the laſt war with *England*, had not their profits upon thoſe coaſts been more then ordinarily conſiderable.

And indeed ſo ſweet was their Trade there, and of that conſequence and importance they would never have endured either *Engliſh* or *Dane* amongſt them, had not the Natives compelled them.

The inſtance I ſhall give in the ill uſage we receiv'd from *the Heer VValkenbourg* their General at the

Mine,

Mine, at a time too when we were in ſo ſtrict allyance with them, that we had eſpous'd their quarrel, and made their Enimies our own, will I doubt not be ſufficient to demonſtrate, that there is nothing ſo Barbarous, or inhoſpitable, they will not act for their profit, and to exclude the world from the notion of a Trade that would alone maintain the Grandeur of their State, were they abſolute Maſters of theſe Coaſts without any competitors.

That the Genius and Humour of the *Mores* is more ſuſceptible of the *French*, then any other Nation, is manifeſt by the deſigns all Forreigners have lay'd to keep us from thence: they know very well ſhould our Commerce be readmitted, theirs would be loſt irrecoverably, and we ſhould ingroſs the vaſt quantities of Ivory

and Gold-sand, which comes yearly from thence: Besides the benefit of the Nigroes which are transported for Slaves into *America*; and contribute exceedingly to the profit of those plantations.

Nor ought any difficulty in the Voyage, be able to discourage us, seeing when once arrived at the *Canaries*, the wind serves always very well, no tempests, no storms, and ankorage is every where so good, that an ankor of nine or ten inches, will hold a Vessel of four hundred Tun:

Monsieur Dablez Seigneur Martel being imployed into these parts by the *West-Indy* Company at *Paris*, and setting out from *Amsterdam* in a new Ship of four hundred Tun, (called the *Europe*) took me along with him in the quality of his Controuler for that Voyage.

On St. *Mathews* Eve, in the year one

one thouſand ſix hundred ſixty ſix, I departed from *Paris* in order to my imployment, and arrived at *Bruſſels* the Saturday after, the next night paſſing to *Antwerp*, and from thence to *Roterdam*, I came ſafely to *Amſterdam* on the 13 of *September*, where having ſpent ſome weekes with the reſt of our Officers in fraiting our Ship, I departed with the *Heer Vanteſck*, the *Heer Willembōurg* (our Captain,) the *Heer Vanderberg*, and *Monſieur Mathews* (our Secretary) for the *Texel*.

The next morning we went aboard, and on the 13 of *November* with a fair wind we ſet ſail, ſteering our courſe ſouth ſouth weſt; we gave the Fort of the *Texel* three guns, and then put out the colours of *Oſtend* to prevent being ſtopt, there having been an expreſs prohibition for any *Hollander* to ſerve any forreigner in thoſe parts upon

upon pain of death, let the pretence be what it would.

Having dismist our Pilot which conducted us to sea; by degrees, and the opportunity of a mist we past thorough the Channell, and (escaping the English of whom we had great apprehension) we came up at length to certain Islands about some twenty leagues distance from the river of *Lisbon*.

In this place it seems it is a custome amongst the *Hollanders* (and punctually observed) to baptize such of their seamen and passengers as have never past the Tropique or Line before, and if the Vessel have never made that Voyage before (as ours had never done) by the same custome the Captain is obliged to give the Seamen some certain bottles of Brandy to be merry, and drink his health with all, or otherwise he forfeits.

The

The weather being fair, and we very much beholding to the benignity of the ſun, all things were prepared, the Bell rung, and the Seamen immediately upon the deck, and having ſlackned our ſails, they began the ceremony of Baptiſme as followes.

Thoſe of the ſeamen who had made this voyage before, ſeiſed upon the other, & tying their hands behind them, they took them one byone, and having faſtened a Rope under their armpits, they puld them up to the yard of the main maſt, from thence ſoucing them into the water, and then drawing them out again three or four times, ſome times they ducked them for the King of *France*, and ſometimes for the States general, and at laſt for the Officers of the Ship, and their wives if they had any, after which they gave them a glaſs of

Sack

Sack, or a diſh of Brandy, and all were good friends.

The boys of the Ship were ſtript to their ſhirts, and put under a basket, and had ſeaven or eight buckets of water powered over their heads.

Nor were the officers exempt, for after their preſents of drink to the ſeamen, they were contented to ſtand ſtill till they threw ſome little water upon their heads out of a glaſs or a pot, which concluded the ceremony.

This Chriſtning being over, we ſet ſail again, and by the errour of our Pilots, we paſt by the *Maderas*, where we intended to have put in.

At length we diſcovered a high foreland, and advanced within 4 leagues of it to diſcover what it was, after five hours coaſting we found by our ſounding (the water being

being forty fathom) and the redneſs of the ſand, that it was not the Iſle of *Palma* (as we imagined) but that we were got as far as the Gulf *de ſainte Croix* neer the Cape *Geer* upon the Coaſts of *Moroque.*

Having paſt by the *Cañaries* and the Cape *de Bajador*, we paſt the Tropique of Cancer on the 10 of *December*, and on the twelfth having paſt the Cape *Blanc*, we came into eighteen degrees of latitude, and by the benefit of a ſouth eaſt wind we run along by the ſhore till we came to ſixteen degrees, at which time we began to deſcry the Coaſts of *Africk*, and to obſerve them ſandy and low.

The 14 at ſun riſing we found our ſelves at the mouth of the river of *Senegal*, about fifteen degrees, where the wind falling, we endured a calm, ſo as that day nor the night

night follōwing, we made no progreſs at all.

On the 15th we diſcover'd *Cap-Verd*, which at a diſtance reſembled two Breaſts, but in reſpect it was environed with Rocks, and not approachable without danger, we ſteer'd to the North-Weſt, and on the 16th, we doubled the *Cap* in our paſſage to *Rio-Freſco*, a Town upon the Coaſt of *Africk*, about ſix leagues from the *Cap*; a place where they uſually take in freſh water, and ſometimes Trade, but with little ſecurity, the Fort, and Iſland of *Goure* (which belongs to the *Hollander*) being too near.

CAP-VERD.

SO called from a perpetual verdure which embelliſhes it, is one of the pleaſanteſt, and moſt agreable

agreable places in the world. It is a Promontory which throws it self a long way from East to West into the Sea; the North part of it is Mountanous, and covered always with green Trees, its point towards the East, is about a Mile over: it is a Rock very steep and sharp towards the Sea, which with great gentleness baths and washes the feet of it, after it has been broken, and discust by several smaller, and conceal'd Rocks that incompass it, and seem to be plac'd there by nature, on no other purpose but to oppose themselves (in the behalf of so delicate a place) against the fury of so impetuous an Element. The two points advancing like Mountains, and making as it were a verdant terrass or rampart walk betwixt them, yeilds a most incomparable perspective thorough the trees on the East-

East-side, and is no lefs beautifull on the South, though the Countrey lies low, by reason of the Trees, which one would think were planted by a line, if he considers with what exactness and regularity they grow.

But the same wind which (being gentle) had indulg'd our curiosity, and given us a gratefull and compleat prospect of this Cape, removed us almost insensibly, and brought us to *Goure*.

Goure is a little Island about a League in circumference, and three Leagues distant from *Cap-Verd*, 'tis separated from the *Terrafirma* by a little arm of the Sea, about half a League over. At present it belongs to the *Hollander*, who on a Mountain on the West-side has built a Fort, on the East it is low, has a good Port on the South, and good Anchorage.

We

We ſaluted the Fort with five pieces of Canon, and received as many from them; we gave them three more by way of thanks, and that they might not ſeem to be behind us in civility, they return'd us one more, and ſet up the Dutch Standard.

A while after the Governour ſent out his boat to inquire what we were, and what news; he that commanded it ſpake very good French, and it fell to my ſhare to entertain him a good while. Our diſcourſe was about *Cap-Verd*, and *Le-Senegal*, which he cry'd up to me as the moſt pleaſant part of the World, and the beſt for Trade, and told me, that at long run the French would carry it from every body.

For *Cap-Verd*, that they which loved hunting, might aboundantly divert themſelves there, that

there

there was plenty of game, as Partridge, Hares, Harts, Roe-Bucks, and several other Animals very good meat, though utterly unknown in *Europe*. That the *Moors* were not to be fear'd, and that there was excellent fishing.

After Dinner he return'd to the Fort, desiring us to go on to *Gambay* where the *English* had a small Fort with eight pieces of Canon planted, and the Government worth 2000 *l. per ann.*

Rio-Fresca, is a Town in *Africk*, near which, we came to Anchor in the *Bay de Fronte*, which is firm and gravelly at the bottome, and is six Fathoms deep at low water.

After Dinner our Secretary was sent on Shore to carry the *Alcair*, or Governour, his Presents, (which were Knives, and Brandy) and to take a view of what Commodities they had there, and to procure fresh meat. At

At his return, he told us the *Alcair* had receiv'd him very civilly in his own houſe, which is built in the midſt of ſeveral others, that he made him ſet down by him upon a very neat Matt, and regal'd him with ſuch Wine and Fruits as the Countrey did afford.

That as to Commodities, the Coaſt was at preſent unfurniſh'd, but if we would have patience for a fortnight, he would give notice to the Marchants of the Countrey, who would doubtleſs ſupply us, eſpecially ſeveral *Portugals* which they then had amongſt them: and as to freſh Victuals he would furniſh us next day.

Whilſt our Notary was a ſhore, there came a *Canoe* aboard us from the *Alcair*, but ſo mann'd, as ſurprized me very much: they were exceedingly black, their *Mine* not much better than our Beggars in *France*,

France, and naked as they were born, except a little linnen before.

They demanded what we were; we told them *French*: they ask'd if we were come to ſtay, or had put in only for Proviſions; we reply'd for Proviſions, but we would return to continue; to which they anſwer'd *Bon, Bon*: the *French* are more worth than all the reſt of the World.

There came ſeveral other *Canoes* to us with great quantity of fiſh, which they barter'd for knives and ſtrong waters, which they fancy exceedingly.

That night we ſtood to our arms, apprehending ſome attempt from *Goure* to ſurpriſe us. The next morning, the *Alcair* himſelf, called *Abdonſech*, came aboard us in our Shallop, accompany'd with his Officers,& the principal of the

Town

Town. He was a perſon of about 35. or 40. years of age, well proportion'd, and underſtood his intereſt well enough. He was in a long white Robe made of Cotton, which came no lower than his knees, the ſleeves long and wide like a Surplice, only gather'd cloſe at the hands, about his neck great quantity of locks of Red Wool, with a *Callecon* of the ſame; he had a Cap upon his head not much unlike the *Capuches* worn in *Hungaria*. The Officers had all of them old Mantles of ſtript Cotton about them, partly white, and part blew, not unlike our Gipſies.

We made them ſit and Dine with us, after which they deſir'd the Officers of the Veſſel that they would return thither and continue, which we promiſing, they enter'd into a Contract of allyance, which was ſign'd and ſeal'd on both ſides.

We

We ask'd them where their King was; they reply'd three days journey up into the Countrey: That he was call'd *Damel Biram*, and his kingdom *Caillor*, that he loved the *French* beſt, as being more frank, and liberal, and leſs addicted to their intereſt and profit.

It's a wonder to ſee theſe people, they can neither write nor read, and yet all of them ſpoke *Portugais*; but the *Alcair*, *French*, *Engliſh*, and *Dutch*, as perfectly as thoſe that were born there: about Noon he took his leave of us, and we fill'd him a great Gourd with ſtrong water, which he had brought full of Palm Wine, which is the beſt in their Countrey; I went on ſhore with him, and interrogating him about theſe following things for ſeveral hours, he inform'd me, that

Ric-

Rio-Freſca is a Town of about 200 houſes, that it hath a convenient Harbour on the Weſt-ſide of it, and capable of a ſhallop: That the houſes are but ſmall, and according to my computation, like our thatched houſes in *Normandy*, built only with mud and ſticks layed a croſs. That there were not above 300 men in the Town, beſides women and children.

The Eaſt-ſide is covered with a Wood, thorow which I paſt four or five hundred paces, and diſcovered large fields beyond it, which my eye could not compaſs. This Wood conſiſts of Palm-trees, and other very lofty Trees, which in *Europe* are unknown.

The aire (though the place be fourteen degrees on this ſide the Line) is as good and as warm, as any on theſe coaſts; for which

reaſon both women and men, go naked, only a little linnen before, to cover their *pudibunda*, which the men doe not ſcruple to leave off when they go to Sea.

Their Religion is ſo various, and intermixt, that beſides the *Portugal Catholicks*, which are there in great numbers, they have other *circumcized Catholicks*, that come near to the *Jews*, as alſo *Mahumetans* and *Idolaters*. Theſe latter have little baggs of leather which they wear conſtantly about their necks, and call them *Fetiches*, which is as much as to ſay, *their Gods*, (as I ſhall demonſtrate more at large in my Chapter of the Superſtition of thoſe which inhabit the *Golden Coaſt*) in which likewiſe they have ſo great confidence, they believe that unleſs it be the Whites, there is no body can doe them any harm.

They

They eat very little flesh, though they have Oxen, Cows, Sheep, Goats, Kids, Hens, Pidgeons, a kind of Phesants, and small Birds in abundance; Their chief diet is Fish, as the *Guilthead*, the *Shad-fish*, the *Pilcher*, which they take day and night in great numbers, besides many other unknown among us. Their fishing is in litle *Canoes*, cut out of the Trunnk of a Tree, and made hollow, with a stick, (instead of a Mast) set up in the middle when the wind is down, but otherwise when it is high, they stand right up, and row with a kind of oares, some four or five foot long, and as broad at the end as a good large plate.

The men of this place, are very personable and well, not many of them *Camous*, and from hence it is they have the best slaves in *Africk*. The women and daugh-

ters are for the moſt part very common, courting and ſolliciting of Strangers by that time they are fourteen years old, and that in the midſt of the ſtreets., ſo great a kindneſs and inclination they have for them.

The men have as many wives as they can keep, will proſtitute them for a ſmall matter, and ſometimes offer them for nothing. They have their haire tyed up upon their heads, (which are always uncovered) to which they faſten certain little pieces of wood, and think them great preſervatives againſt the heat of the Sun. All of them both men and women ſpeak a kind of corrupt *Portugais*.

The commodities this Country affords, are Skins, Gums, Feathers, Ivory, Indigo, Civet, and great quantity of a kind of Cotten cloth, ſtript with white and with blew, which

which is immediately put off again at the *Golden Coaſt*.

Though they are naturally great lyers, and not to be believed, yet it is certain the *Alcair* gave advertiſement to the Inhabitants up the country as he promiſed us, but we thought it not fit to truſt him, according to the advice of another Veſſel of *Amſterdam*, which made advantage thereby.

We bought that day ſome Hens, Pullets, and Kids, and delayed our time ſo long on ſhore, our camerades were forced to give us a ſignal, by diſcharging a great Gun, that we ſhould come back, as apprehending ſome miſchief might befall us from the *Hollander*.

That night we ſet ſayle for the *Sierra-Leone*, or *Mountain of Lyons*, neither thinking it convenient to make up the other Rivers, or to paſs directly to *Gambay*. And on

ſix and twentieth of *December* we came to an anchor within three leagues.

The Coaſts of MALEGETA, *with the Kingdom of Sierra-Leone.*

THe next day by the benefit of the Tyde, we came to an anchor in the River of *Sierra-Leone*; about noon the *Mores* came aboard us to conduct us into the *Bay de France*, which is the fourth from *Cap-Ledo* at the mouth of the River.

At ſix fathom deep, low water, we came to an anchor within muſquet ſhot of the fountain, where we took in freſh water, and having landed, we went that night to ſupper upon the banks of it, where we killed a Goat, which came thither to drink, and found the water

water more pleaſant and delicious (in reſpect of our thirſt) then the beſt of our Wines.

We put out the colours of *Oſtend*, and not of *France*, becauſe there was an *Engliſhman* living in one of thoſe Iſles a long time, where he had a faire houſe and four pieces of Canon, and was beſides well beloved, and protected by the Kings of that country.

The next day we ſent two of our Officers up the River, about ten leagues, to wait upon the King of *Boure*, with our uſual preſents, and to deſire permiſſion to trade, and to furniſh our ſelves with freſh water, and wood; and in the mean time our people fell to work, to cut down wood, and carry water, the Notary, my ſelf, and one of my ſervants, going along with them as a guard. During our abſence there came aboard

our Ship five or six *Canoes*, in one of which there was one *John Thomas* (Captain of one of the Isles in that River) who brought some quantity of Ivory along with him. The Captain (who was the only Officer aboard) received him very civilly, saluted him at his entrance with a volley of great Shot, and regaled him as much as was possible, but he bought none of his Ivory being too dear, which gave so much dissatisfaction to *Monsieur Thomas*, he went away in a huff about five a clock, and landed with fifteen or sixteen *Mores* in his company, near the bank of the Fountain I have spake of before. The Clerk and my self were returning in our great shallop laden with balast, and advanc'd as much as the tyde (which was then coming in) would give us leave, in so much that our shallop was a

float:

ſhoat: Which being obſerved by the Captain and his *Mores*, they put themſelves into their *Canoes* again, and made with all ſpeed to our men, who were cutting down wood upon the banks of the Bay. At the ſame time they gave us a ſignal from the Ship by furling our colours, which made us double our ſpeed, in apprehenſion there might have been ſome mutiny or ſedition aboard; but when we arrived we found it was only to give notice of the deſign of the *Mores*, who were ſeen making to our men with their weapons in their hands, but the man I left behind me, having his muſquet with him, ſtopt their proceedings, and the reſt defended themſelves ſo well with their *Axes*, that there was none wounded or kill'd of the whole company, only one ancient man received a ſcratch in one of

his armes. We ſayled immediately towards them, but as ſoon as we came within muſquet ſhot, and they perceived our Guns in our hands, they run ſtrait into the woods, where they lay cloſe all day long, but at night we could hear them making great noiſe about the fountain aforeſaid.

The next day being the 29 *December*, the Clerk, the Pilots Mate, ſeveral Servants, and about 20 of our Seamen, went a ſhore in our ſhallop for freſh water and wood. At their landing the *Mores* abandoned the fountain, and betook themſelves to the Woods, where they made a great noiſe likewiſe, but without any attempt, for our men having run towards them, and fired five or ſix muſquets at aventure into the woods, they took their heeles, and from that time we heard no more of *Monſieur*

ſieur Thomas, nor any of his crew.

After dinner our Embaſſadors returned from the King of *Boure's* Court, having ſtayed there with his moſt Auguſt Majeſty but one night: but they brought moſt of the *Canoes* thereabout along with them, laden with Ivory, which was bought off indifferent cheap.

The next day the King of *Boure's* Brother came aboard us; and brought with him a *Portugais* (which we had ſeen before, and is imployed in the affaires of that Prince) we knew it was ſome perſon of quality as ſoon as we diſcerned his *Canoe*, which we diſtinguiſhed by the ſound of his Trumpets, and immediattely ſent out our boat to receive him, into which he entred with his Trumpet and Drum, and at his coming aboard our Ship, was ſaluted vvith a volley from the great Guns.

The

The Brother of the King of *Sierra-Leone* is a perſon of about fifty or threeſcore years of age, and begins nowv to grovv gray: his ſtature is but indifferent, but grave, and intelligent enough in his affairs. His habit vvas not much unlike that of the *Alcair* of *Rio-Freſca*, unleſs it be that the *Alcair's* habit vvas of vvhite cloth, and this of cloth ſtrip'd vvith black and blevv, he had a grey hat upon his head, a ſtick like a muſquet reſt in his hand, his Attendants had all of them Robes of Cotton cloth, only the *Portugal* vvas dreſt *a la Portugaiſe*.

Whilſt we vvere treating him, vve gave him an accompt of the ſtory of *John Thomas*, to vvhich he anſvvered that he vvas a mutineer and a rebel, and that in caſe we ſhould catch him, vve ſhould not only have his pardon, but thanks.

After

After he had dined, he pulled out about tvventy little ſtones, out of a little purſe, vvhich he threvv upon the Table, demanding ſo many *Barres* (as they call them) in diſcharge of their Kings duties, as vvell for the buſineſs they had negotiated vvith him, as for their freſh vvater and vvood. Though theſe people can neither read nor vvrite, yet they make uſe of this vvay of gathering their Rights, and the frequency of their Commerce vvith the *Portugals*, has brought them to talk altogether by *Barres*, vvhich is the vvord they doe moſt ordinarily uſe.

According to their demande, the tvventy *Barres* vvere payed him, that is to ſay, in Iron tvvelve *Barres*, a little Barrell of Strong-vvaters at four *Barres*, a Kettle at tvvo *Barres*, a Hat at tvvo *Barres*, and ſo on: He vvas himſelf upon his

his own ſcore preſented with two Bottles of Brandy, and his Retinue with Knives: at the cloſe of the evening he returned, well ſtuſt, and well ſatisfyed, as the greateſt part of his Attendants were alſo; at his departure he had ſeveral Guns given him, and was diſmiſt with all poſſible civility. He is in great reſpect amongſt the people, his Trumpet and Drum are always carryed along with him, even when he goes about his moſt natural affaires. During theſe three dayes, we had ſeveral *Portugals* came aboard us with their Commodities; of whom I endeavoured what I could to inform my ſelf of the manners of that Countrey.

The Description of Sierra-Leone, or the Mountain of the Lyons.

THe Countrey of *Sierra-Leone*, is called *Boulombel* by the *Mores*, which in their language is as much as the large Countrey. In respect of the extraordinary height of the Mountaines towards the South, which are much higher then either the *Pyrenæan* or *Alpes*; and the multitude of Lyons which are constantly to be seen there, it was called *Sierra-Leone* by the *Portugals*, which in our language amounts to no more then the *Mountain of Lyons*: Their Countrey begins a great way up in the land Eastward, and ends Northwest with the *Cap-Ledo*, which throws it self into the Sea: from the point of that *Cape*, as one passes up the River, there are several Bayes,

Bayes, the fourth of which is the *Bay de France*, either because the *French* were formerly poſſeſſed of this Coaſt, or that they burn'd a Town there heretofore, and this is the only Bay in that River where they can take in freſh water.

I had one day the curioſity to trace one of the three Fountaines which are there, and having followed it a league to the foot of the Mountaines, obſerving the tracks and print of the wild beaſts, which are very ſtrange, and dreadful, I returned as I went, and have been ſince informed by one of the *Portugals*, that it riſes in the midſt of the Woods, which are above 15 leagues over, and that if I had purſued my deſign, and traced it to its ſpring, I muſt never have expected to come back, as well for the vaſt number of Lyons, as for the Tygres, Elephants, and

Croco-

Crocodiles which are there, and would probably have devoured me.

Theſe Mountaines are covered vvith Trees very full of Gumme, alvvays green, and for the moſt part not unlike our Laurel.

The Northen parts of this *Sierra-Leone* lie very low, and are in the poſſeſſion of the King of *Boulom*, as the Southern parts are of the King of *Boure*.

The Kingdom of *Boulom* is not overwell known, either to the *French* or *Hollander*, their affections being principally inclin'd to the *Engliſh* and *Portugals*, of which laſt, there are ſeveral that inhabit there.

The River which bears the name of *Sierra-Leone* likewiſe, runs a great way Eaſtward up into the Countrey, is about 3 leagues over at the mouth; and one about four-

teen

teen or fifteen leagues higher. The Harbour is not above two fathoms deep, in so much that in entring into it, we were fain to come as near the Mountaines as we could, where we found ten, twelve, and sixteen fathoms water. It has several little Islands in its channel, the most of them inhabited, and covered with green Trees, especially Palme-trees, of which they make great quantities of Wine? It is very full of Fish, and breeds Crocodils near the head of its Fountaine.

The borders of these Islands are set with certain Trees, whose branches, doe never extend themselves further out one then another, but the shutes or fiences growing downwards, as soon as they touch the water or the earth, they take new root, and by that means make a Hedge sometimes of 10 or 12 yards broad. The

The Inhabitants of this Countrey are very well made, I obſerv'd very few of them Camous'd, the men much more civil then at *Cap-Verd*, they are always clothed, and for the moſt part more modeſt.

In the Town of *Beure* there cannot be above 300 houſes, according to the eſtimation of ſome of our men who were there, and told me among other things, that the Pallace of their King is built likewiſe in the middle of the Town, and would not make a good reſidence for a juſtice of peace.

Their Women are generally common, every man has as many of them as he pleaſeth, and proſtitutes them to Strangers, as he thinks good, except only the firſt, which are kept with great jealouſy, and circumſpection all along theſe Coaſts; ſo as properly the

the other are nothing but Concubines.

According to the computation of every body I ſpake with, there may be in *Roure* about four or five hundred men, beſides women and children: Their King is a Roman Catholick, his name *Philippes*, and has a *Capuchin* and a *Jeſuit* in his Court.

In an Iſland called *Saint Andrew*, I entered into one of their houſes, and found it built of ſticks, and dirt, on one ſide a little window covered with leaves, a hole for the dore, and a ſmall fire in the middle; they lye upon Matts, made of great ruſhes, which they place in a corner, and have their Armes by their ſides, which for the moſt parts are ſwords, daggers, darts, bows and arrows, the head of which they impoiſon with the fruit of a certain tree, whoſe poi-

ſon

ſon is ſo inconceivably ſubtil and quick, it runs immediately into the blood, and affects it ſo ſuddenly, it is no eaſy matter either to prevent or to cure it: Which fruit is long like a raddiſh, and green. Some of them have their Gums, which they all of them are fond of, and doe uſe with great dexterity.

Their Religion alſo is various, the great Commerce the *Portugals* have in this place, and the great numbers that inhabit there already have converted many of them, the reſt being *Mahumetans*, and *Idolators*. They pay a reverence extraordinary to certain extravagant figures, which they call *Fetiches*, worſhip them as Gods, pray to them punctually Morning and Night, and when at any time they have any thing better then ordinary, either Meat, or Fiſh, or

their

their Palm-Wine, they throw it all down upon the ground in honour to their Gods.

As I went a ſhore one day in the *Canoe* of a certain *More*, I heard him muttering to himſelf, and having diſtinguiſh'd theſe words *Abraham*, *Iſaac*, and *Jacob*, I ask'd him what he was doing, he told me he was giving thanks to his *Fetiche*, for having preſerved him at Sea, and that the reſt of the *Mores*, as they had occaſion, did always the ſame: They all of them carry their *Fetiches* in little baggs, either upon their hearts, or their ſhoulders, tendring them meat Night and Morning conſtantly, they trim them up with *Raſade*, or little grains of glaſs of all colours, which they take to be the greateſt Ornament in the world.

This Countrey produces great quan-

quantity of *Rice*, of *Millet*, and *Mays*, which is a kind of *Turkiſh Corne*, they make their bread off, and is not very ill: Some of them having waſh'd their Rice in Sea water, will eat it raw, and without any ill effect.

Their common diet is Fiſh, and great ſtore of fruits, as Berrys, Figgs, Pears, Prunes, Oranges, Citrons, and a kind of Cheſtnut, not altogether ſo good as in *Europe*, but it has the virtue to quench the thirſt though one be never ſo dry.

Theſe Mountaines produce great quantities of Goats, Hoggs, Lyons, Tygres, Elephants, wild Bores, Harts, and Roebucks, which laſt are ſo numerous, they bring them on Ship board, and truck them for little or nothing: But the Serpents (if we may believe either the *Mores* or the *Portugals*) doe increaſe ſo unmeaſurably, that

ſome

ſome of them will ſwallow a Man at a gulpe. The *Mores* are perpetually at wars with them, and doe uſe a certain herbe (which is admirably good againſt poiſon) againſt the bites of all the Beaſts they encounter.

The Apes run up and down every where in great Troops, deſtroying their plants where ever they come, upon which ſcore the *Mores* are their implacable enemies (as well as the Elephants) hunting and purſuing them perpetually, and ſometimes eating them when they have done. I have taſted of their fleſh, which is not bad, and in my judgment comes very near our Beef.

All of them ſpeak *Portugais*, and are very apprehenſive of being drunk, for which reaſon (eſpecially amongſt us) they drank but little ſtrong water.

The

The Marchandise this Countrey affords is Rice, excellent Ivory, Civet, and some Amber-Greece. Of all the Coasts, this is one of the best for matter of trade, seldome yeilding less profit then *Cent pour Cent*; But the *Portugals* gaine is much greater, they buying their Ivory up higher in the Countrey, and afterwards selling it again at the Sea side to other Merchants; Four or five men might live in one of the little Isles in this River, and be very well susteined by the labour of two or three Slaves.

The *English* have a Ware-house in one of these Islands, and the Factor thereof writ to us several times to desire he might come to us and trade, we told him he might doe it with safety, and on the last of *December*, upon our parole, when we had finish'd our

bargaines for Ivory with the *Portugals*, and Natives, the ſaid *Engliſhman* called *Abraham*, came aboard us in his ſhallop (rowed by three Slaves) accompany'd by a certain *Hollander*, and two others which belonged to him; he was well received, but after Supper, contrary to the advice of all the reſt, the Captain made him a priſoner, and the three *Mores* which were with him, to their no ſmall aſtoniſhment, and on the firſt of *January* 1667. the great ſhallop was mann'd out with 30 men, the Captain, the Chyrurgion, and my ſelf, with one piece of ordinance, to beſiege and plunder his houſe.

It is built of Brick, and free ſtone, defended by four pieces of Canon, carrying a four pound bullet, and incompaſs'd with a fair Wood of Palm-trees, which ſupplyed him with Wine. On one

ſide

ſide there are fifteen or twenty Cabines for the Natives, and on the other, a ſpring of very good water. This Iſland is the beſt, and moſt beautifull upon the River: As we were about to land, we diſcovered ſome two hundred *Mores*, got together about the houſe, with their firelocks, and a greater number up the Woods at farther diſtance: Which obliged us to make a ſhow of paſſing on higher, as being the weaker, and by conſequence in more need of the advantage of the wind. They imagined we had been going to *Bonre*, and immediately diſpatch'd a *Canoe* to give *Bonlom* the alarme, and to adviſe him to come to them; we perſued this *Canoe* with all poſſible diligence, but could not perſwade them to come in till we fired three or four times into their boat; They were two young

Slaves, belonging to a *Portugal*, that was with the *Englishman*, but we could not make them confess any thing, by all the interrogations we could use: Those of the *English* party observing what was past, fired at us with their Canon, and three of their bullets fell within ten paces of our boat. We put our selves out of the reach of their Guns for the present, and came to an anchor, attending the coming in of the tide to accommodate our return. The weather being calme, about half an hour after, there appear'd two *Mores* belonging to one of the neighbouring Islands, in a *Canoe*, which made directly up to us, and came within pistol shot, but would by no means be perswaded on board; whereupon we shot on two or three Guns (not with intention of doing them harm) but to instruct them of the

truth:

truth. They no sooner heard the noise of our Guns, but they run away immediately, plying their oares as fast as they could, and stooping (upon sight of our fire) so low, they seem'd to us no higher then Cats. In the mean time the Canoes of the *English* were not idle, playing still upon us, though they knew we were out of their reach, which they did not so much to do any execution, as to let the Natives see they had undertaken their defence, and acquired their friendship. However the tyde coming in, we past by several little Islands, and made our retreat.

We found several *Dutch*, and *Portugals*, aboard our Vessel, and amongst the rest, the King of *Bouloms* Son called *Bombo*, who was a person of about thirty or forty years old, well proportioned,

and (bating his complexion) a very handsome man, his aire was courteous, and majestick, he was an intimate friend of *Abrahams*, but knew nothing till supper of his imprisonment: He no sooner understood it, but he interceeded for his ransome, and went immediately with the *Portugal* (that manages the affaires of the King of *Boure*) to procure it: On *Munday* at noon they came aboard again with a hundred Elephants teeth, weighing 900 pound weight, and two live Civet-Cats, upon the delivery of which he was dismist, and went home after dinner, we giving him a little barrel of Strong-waters, a rowle of Tobacco, a Cheese, and a *Salve* of three Guns, when he went off.

Some few *Portugals* stay'd behind till they made up their Markets, and having dispatch'd them

the

the fifth, they returned out of hand.

That day we intended to have been gone, but happening upon a calme, and to have the tyde againſt us too, we were forc'd to attend a little longer then we deſigned. About noon there came a *Canoe* aboard us, with two *Mores*, which pretended to belong to *Boulom*, who brought us fruit, but having no Ivory, we lookt upon them but as ſpyes, and ſent them back again about five.

That night we ſet ſayle, and having paſt *Cap-Lédo*, we ſteer'd a South South-Eaſt courſe, to avoid the banks of *Saint Anne*, and the next morning diſcry'd a little Veſſel of *Holland*, coaſting upon the ſhore, as we did, to make the *Cap de Monte*, which is about ſixty leagues diſtant from the *Sierra-Leone*.

On *Friday* the 7th of *January*, we past by the mouth of the River of *Madre Bomba*, where the *English* have a house also, and not inferior to that at *Sierra Leona*.

In the afternoon we came within sight of the *Rio de Gallines*, so called by the *Portugals*, from the multitude of Hens there; and the cheapness of them; the people giving one, two, and sometimes three, for a knife of a penny. The *Hollanders* had a house there formerly: The Natives gave us signe to approach and put in, but the Neighbourhood of the *English* would not suffer us to bear on that side; but we continued our course to the East till *Saturday* morning, at which time by the assistance of a clear day, we discovered the *Cap de Monte*, at about ten leagues distance.

CAP

CAP DE MONTE,
and its Description.

THe wind being but little, we came not to an anchor till night, and then about half a league from the shore, at twelve fathom low water, and upon a sand.

The *Cap de Monte* is so called from a point of ground which gives it that figure, and rising just by the Sea, formes its self into a round Mountain, all the rest of that coast lying very low.

We could not discry either house or cabane all along, yet on the 19th we went on shore, and found four or five houses at some distance, where the Blacks made their Salt.

They appeared very joyfull at our arrival; they told us their King lived three days journey up

into the Countrey, that they would give notice to their Neighbours of our coming that night, and that if we thought good to return the next morning, we might finde such store of Ivory as could be suddenly got. That if we intended to keep our promise when we came on board, we should give them two great Guns as a signal, and they would make fires to confirm us on their side, which was agreed and performed accordingly.

The tenth, and the eleventh days, were spent entirely in bartring, I being on board; the 12th, I went on shore, though with some difficulty, the Sea breaking off so abruptly, our shallop was left some 20 paces upon ground, and the Seamen forc'd to go out of the boat, and land the Officers upon their backs; where we found the *Mores* had made a large Arbor, covered

covered over with leaves, and branches of trees, to keep our commodities dry, and ſhelter us from the violence of the Sun.

Whilſt we were Negotiating our affaires, we heard a great noiſe on a ſudden, and ſaw the *Mores* in a great hurry, running Pell-mell from their houſes, and merchandiſe both: we apprehended we might be ſurprized, and took up our armes immediately, but being got out into the aire, we underſtood it was only their King was coming to us; whereupon ſome of our men went to meet him, and ſaluted him with a volley of five or ſix of our firelocks.

Before him marched his Drum, and his Trumpet, eight or ten of his kindred and friends, and the reſt were his Officers: his Wives, and his Daughters, marched on his ſide, behind him his Slaves followed,

followed, and a certain number of Women carrying his dinner in bowles of wood, and of tynne, which they held up as high as they could possibly. By him he had four Slaves marching, two of them covering him with two large Bucklers, and the other carrying his bow and arrows, and javeling. As he approached, the *Moras* divided themselves, the Men on one side, the Women on the other, singing, and dancing, and leaping up and down, and testifying their joy in a thousand different postures. The King took a dart and pretended to throw it at them, upon which they threw themselves immediately upon the ground, and at the same time they which came along with his Majesty took their turn both to dance and to sing. Presently the King took an arrow, which he shot up into the

aire,

aire, and presently all run to the place where it fell, and happy was he that could take it up first, and bring it to him; after this he made a show of shooting directly amongst them, and they throwing themselves down again, with great acclamation, continued this pastime for a quarter of an hour: In this tryumph and grandeur, he was conducted to us; we received him as honorably as we could, saluting him with volleys of small shot.

He was a grave and venerable old man of about threescore years of age, or upwards, they called him *Falam Boure*, he was very sensible and majestick: his habit was the same with the rest of the Gentlemen, saving that his was quite blew, and the Robes of the Gentlemen, Officers, and Nobility of that Countrey, are always strip'd, like the Captains of

Rio-Freſca) with white and blew: We payed him what reſpect we could, and after we had made him ſuch preſents as were uſual, he retired into another Arbor the *Mores* had made for him, and left us very graciouſly to our Negotiations.

I waited upon him to his Arbor, where he entertained me in *Portugais*, and told me, that it was four years ſince he had ſeen any Whites, and with tears (as it were) of joy aſſured me, that the *French* ſhould be always welcome to him; that indeed they were a little quick and capricious, but otherwiſe honeſt men: that he and his Countrey (which he thought was not contemptible) would be eternally at their ſervice.

And in truth were all the reſt of *Africk* like this part of it, it

was

was indubitably to be preferred to any part of *Europe*. No sooner is your foot upon the ground, but you are presented with a faire plaine, planted on this side and that, with curious groves perpetually green, and in their leaves not unlike to our Laurel. The prospect is bounded to the South with the Mountain of the *Cape*; and on the North by a large grove, which gives a shade to a little Island in a little River, which casts it self hard by into the Sea, though it be navigable for a *Canoe* only, or perhaps with some difficulty for a shallop: Eastward there is no stop nor termination of the eye, it may delight and loose it self, in vast meadows and playnes, beautify'd and perfum'd with excellent verdures, and water'd with several pritty Rivers, which open and expan'd themselves to the

Mores,

Moors, and seem to invite them to a communication with those that live higher up in the Countrey. Of this place their *Rice*, their *Millet*, and their *Mais* (of which their bread is made) is more plentiful, and grows in greater quantity, than in any other part of *Guinee* whatsoever.

They have Citrons, Oranges, Amants, Berrys, Melons, Gourds, and a sort of plums not much unlike our *Prugnons*, but not so well tasted.

They have great variety of foule, as Hens, and Pidgeons, and Ducks, and Mallards, and Teal, which must be very plentiful, by the price they are sold for.

Goats and Hoggs are very common, and Apes too, but ugly ones. They have great store of Fish, both Sea-fish, and in their Rivers, which I have said they

value

value much above flesh, they have Tortoises likewise are excellent meat, but their shels not worth a farthing.

They are very neat in their feeding, they roast their meat upon wooden spits, turning them with great care, and observing very curiously least one side be more roasted than the other.

Whilst he was at dinner in his own appartment, I took the confidence to begin a health to one of his Sons Wifes, in their Palm-Wine; and she answered me in French, *Monsieur je vous remercie*, and told me afterwards in *Portugais*, that her Husbands Father had lived always amongst the *French*, when they where in those parts, and that she could distinguish easily by our aire, that my self and Lacquey were the only *Frenchmen* in our whole company.

The

The Inhabitants are generally handſome, good natured, tractible, and ſpeak a kind of corrupt *Portugais*. They go all naked both women and men, only a little cloth before them, but the women wear theirs from the ſtomack, to their mid-leg: they are more chaſt then the reſt, and their Husbands commonly more jealous.

For their Religion, I doe what I could, I could not inform my ſelf, only one of them told me, the Whites pray'd to God, and the Blacks to the Divel: Yet I could perceive many of them were Circumciſed, and all of them had their *Fetiches*.

At our landing, there was not above five or ſix houſes to be ſeen, and thoſe belonging to ſuch as made Salt there, and carryed it afterwards into the Countrey: But within two dayes time, the

plaine

plaine (which was about a league in circumference) was cover'd over with houſes, which the *Mores* from all parts had built, in order to their traffick with us.

In the Kings houſes, or the houſes of their Nobility, they have a diſtinct appartment where their beds are made, either upon plancks, or mat; about a yard from the ground, about which they hang a cloth (in ſtead of curtaines and vallence) and ſo ſleep all night upon them. For their repoſe in the day time, they have a ſort of delicate neat mats, exquiſitely made, of which the *Hollander* buys great ſtore for their Chambers) where laying themſelves down with their heads in their Wives lapps, they ſpend much of their time in combing and ordring their Husbands haire.

For four dayes together we had

a very

a very good Trade. The commodities we bought were Mats, Rice, and Ivory, which in those parts is plentiful and excellently good.

And in this place certainly (if any where) a man might live happily, all things contributing to make his life pleasant: the beauty and bounty of the Country, the humour and disposition of the people, the abundance of all necessaries, the considerableness of the gain, and the aptness and convenience for building in all places wherever you come.

On the thirteenth we went ashore again, but seeing they had not Ivory ready, (though the King promised in three dayes time we should have ten times as much as we had bought already) we set sayle that night for *Cap-Mesurado*

CAP-MISERADO.

THe next day being the 14th of *January*, steering our course East-South-East and by South, we discovered the *Cap-Miserado*, but the weather being duskish, and a thick fog interrupting our prospect, we were glad to cast anchor at three leagues distance from the shore (imagining notwithstanding we had been nearer then we were) and afterwards we shot off two Guns to give the *Mores* notice of our arrival.

The fifteenth we discovered our mistake, yet by reason of a calme, we were forc'd to continue at anchor till noone, at which time we perceived a *Canoe* making towards us with two *Mores* in it, which coming up, demanded who

we

we were, and of what Countrey, we told them of *Holland*; and they desired us to come nearer land, but would by no means be perswaded on board us, till they saw us take the advantage of the wind, weigh anchor, and sayle towards the shore.

They entered then, and told us it was a full year since they had seen any Whites: that the next day they would bring good store of Ivory to the Sea-side for us, and that they might performe what they had promised, after we had made them some small presents, they took their leaves. We came up within half a league of the land, to the mouth of a little river, they call *Duro*, at the foot of th. *Cape*, where we found six fathom deep at low water.

This *Cape* is called *Miserado* by the *Portugais*, either because it is

is incompass'd by rocks that lye under water, and would inevitably destroy any Vessel, which should come nearer then half a league, or because the *French* which were formerly massacred there, cryed out *Misericorde*, *Misericorde*: Besides the Natives of this place being very cruel, they have denominated the river, and called it *Duro*, as being hard and fatal to the Whites. Upon which score we fortifyed our shallop with a great Gun, to fright them and keep them in order.

They set up a little house against we came in order to our negotiations, but not another to be seen within less then half a league, and those too in the woods.

The River *Duro* casts it self into the Sea on that side towards the *Cape*, but is so small and inconsiderable, it carrys nothing but *Canoes*.

At

At our coming on shore we found their Captain (who governs those parts) with several of his Officers sitting under a tree, we presented them with two Bottles of Brandy, which they drank freely, and then conducted us to the house they had prepared, and stay'd with us till night came on, and we returned to our Ships.

The Captain was a very lusty man, of a severe aspect, in a Robe like that of the *Alcair do Rio Fresco*, saving that his was red, with a bonnet of the same colour, he was attended by 50 or 60 *Negroes*, with great darts, bows, arrows, and swords, and with some few women, which they sent back again to the Woods, not above fifty paces from our Lodge, from whence we never durst trust our selves above ten.

They ask'd us whether we came as enemies or friends, observing it

seem

ſeems the Canon in our ſhallop; We told them that we could not but take notice, that they came with their armes, contrary to the cuſtom of all other places we had traded in, and that what we did, was but to ſecure our ſelves, and our Merchandiſes, which we ſhould bring on ſhore by degrees, and according as we ſold what we had brought.

Some of the Captaines Women, lugging their children along with them, came to ſee us at our lodge, and vve vvere forc'd to preſent them, though the Captain was ſo refractory, what Ivory ſoever he expos'd to truck, or to ſale, he ask'd with that unreaſonable confidence, there was no reaſon to give it: They all of them ſpake *Portugais*, and were all of them clothed.

Whilſt we vvere at dinner, the

Captain demanded ſome one of us to ſtay with him; and I (very couragiouſly) proffer'd to be the man, vvhich he took ſo kindly, he took me by the hand, and put it into the hand of one of his daughters, with this compliment, that he gave her me for my Wife, after which we grew very intimate and great; He took me and ſhevv'd me to the reſt of the *Mores*, who called me their kinſman and friend, promiſed me Slaves, carryed me along with them, and ſetting me in the midſt of them, they made me drink of their *Palme-Wine*.

One of the Officers that din'd with us, I obſerv'd to throw Wine upon the ground, before he drank; I ask'd him the reaſon, and he told me, that if his dead Father ſhould be dry, he would come thither to drink.

We had a fight too of ſome of their

their Priests, but their habits being the same, with what we saw afterwards upon the *Golden Coast*. I shall pass them by in this place, with this animadversion only, that they carry themselves towards them with great deference and respect, believing every word they spake an Oracle. The Captain shew'd me one of them, and told me, if I had lost any thing, he could tell me where it was, and cry'd him up as he had been a Prophet: But above all things, their greatest superstition is for their *Fetiches*.

Their Traffick is principally Ivory, (which indeed is excellent) and Rice in great abundance.

The *English* have a Ware-house beyond the *Cape*, and are in great favour with the *Moors*, who used us ill in no respect, but as they thought us enemies to them.

When we returned to our

Veſſel, we promiſed to be with them again the next morning, but obſerving they had brought us good quantity of Ivory at firſt, which was not afterwards to be ſeen, we had a ſuſpicion it might be a deſign of the *Engliſh* to amuſe us with their Trade, whilſt they could get more men together out of the Countrey: Upon vvhich grounds, that very night (though one of our Officers left a golden ring vvith the Captain, as a gage for his word) we vveigh'd anchor and away for *Rio-Sextos.*

Being on the other ſide of *Cap-Miſerado*, we diſcovered fires, which the *Mores* had made along the ſhores, which is the ordinary ſigne they uſe, to ſignifie to ſuch Ships as paſs by, that they have Merchandiſe for them, upon which accompt vve reſolved to caſt anchor.

RIO DE JUNCO.

ABout 9 or 10 a clock vve came to an anchor, directly over against the fires upon the shore, we shot off two great Guns, to invite them aboard, but seeing none of them come, vve mann'd out our shallop after dinner, and sayl'd tovvards them vvith some few Merchandises, but vve could not reach the shore, within fifty paces, vvithout inevitable danger of bulging.

Seeing some *Mores* upon the banks, vve made signes to them to come to us, and they came svvimming half vvay, and vvent back again, nor could all our alurements vvin them aboard, till at last tvvo of them ventured in a *Canoe*, and vvere kindly received, which they on the shore observing,

three of them threvv themſelves immediately into the Sea, and ſvvam to us; vve preſented them vvith a bottle of Strong-vvaters, vvhich they carryed on ſhore to their infinite ſatisfaction: we ſhew'd them our Kettels, and vvhat other Commodities vve had, at the ſight of vvhich, they made a thouſand expreſſions of joy, and could have done no more, if Paradiſe it ſelf had been ſhovvn them: they ask'd us if vve had any large vvhite *Raſade*. Thoſe vvhich vvere upon land, held up great, and great quantity of Elephants teeth, to haſten us to them, but having uſed our utmoſt endeavour to no purpoſe, and finding it impoſſible to come at them without manifeſt danger, vve ſent back the two *Mores* (vvhich came to us) to them: Who by their aſpect and *Mine*, ſeem'd to be perſons of more then ordinary quality.

Rio

Rio de Junco is a River which lyes five degrees and fifty minutes of Northern latitude, and of Eastern longitude, nine degrees, ten minutes. The mouth of it is known by three great trees which stand very high, and three great Mountains over against them, but at some distance into the land; the mouth of it is near five hundred paces over, but shallow, the banks so well decorated with trees, and flowers, that considered with the smoothness and serenity of the stream, they make a most admirable Landship.

Orange-trees, Citrons, and Palme-trees, are planted all along, and in most exquisite order, and (as the *Mores* which came aboard intimated to us) they have abundance of all things, especially Poultry and Palme-Wine. We went aboard, and perceiving no

body came at us, we set sayle that night, and came the next morning before *Petit Dieppe*.

PETIT DIEPPE.

Petit Dieppe is a Town not far from a River, which casts it self into the Sea, and in its passage, twisting about a spot of ground, formes it self into no contemptible Island: it was formerly in the possession of the *French*, but deserted long since; at the disembogument of this River, there are many Rocks, which make the entrance more than ordinarily difficult. We discovered a little Vessel upon this Coast, and gave chace to it, but without any success.

The 22th we came to *Rio-Sexto*, whose description follows,

RIO-

RIO-SEXTOS.

Rio-Sextos is a River, which comes a great way down the land, North and North-West, and is about half a league over at the mouth of it. On both sides it is set very pleasantly with Trees, very large, and very tall; about three leagues up the River, the *English* had formerly a house, but there is nothing of it left but the Walls. This River will carry a Yacht or large Barke a douzaine leagues and more up into the Countrey.

It was called *Rio-Sextos* by the *Portugais*, from a certain kind of Pepper which grows by it, and is called *Sextos* by them, the same I suppose with what we call *Malaguette*, which I shall speak off more particularly in the next Chapter:

We were told by their Fisher-boats, that about a fortnight before there pass'd two *Flemish* Vessels that way to the *Mine*, that we might finde good quantities of Ivory, but that their *Canoes* being so small, it would be necessary for us to carry our Merchandise on shore: whereupon we anchor'd about half a league from land, in about 16 fathom water.

Some of our Officers went a shore in our shallop, and carryed some Commodities along with them, to begin the Commerce; they carryed them three leagues up the River, and their King (who lived yet higher into the Countrey) came down to see them, and according to Custome had his usual presents.

They came back very late, and the Notary at his return gave me this accompt of him, that he was

a very

a veay lusty man; with a stern and supercilious aspect; that he profes's'd great friendship for the *English*: That he brought down great store of Ivory with him, but having furnish'd the two *Flemish* Vessels so lately, he held it so dear, there was no dealing with him for it. That they seem'd worse natured then the *Mores* at *Miserado*; But that the River was very fine, and is full of little stones upon the shore like our Flints, only these are harder, and give more fire upon any collision.

Whilst they were amongst them, there came about ten or twelve of their *Canoes* aboard us with a kind of Sea-Pike (an excellent good fish) and several other sorts, of which we bought some.

The people are generally well proportioned, and bearing every one of them the name of some

Saint

Saint or other, I had a great curiosity to know how that custom came upon them. I took one of them a side, and having cajoled him with a glass of Wine, and Strong-water (which they love better then their Wifes) I asked him the reason, and he told me, that when any Vessels pass'd that way, and did the Natives any kindness, it was usual to beg their Names at their departure, which they gave afterwards to their children, in memory of the courtesie they had received from them: Which convinc'd me, being imbellish'd with so noble a virtue as gratitude, they could not be so bad as they had been represented to me, and the rather, because the King of them having upon the death of an *English* Merchant seized upon all his Ivory and goods, did upon the arrival of the first *En-*

glish

gliſh Ship, voluntarily, and without any ſolicitation; deliver all to the Captain: An invincible argument of their piety and faith. I gave him that gave me this accompt, two little knives for his pains, and he was ſo ſurpris'd at the preſent, he deſired my name, and I having told him, he oblig'd himſelf, if his Wife (which was big at that time) was brought to bed of a boy, he ſhould carry my name, and if ever I return'd that way, he would bring him to ſee me.

All along this Coaſt, their manner of ſalutation is the ſame, they take our fore finger and thumb, into their hands, and putting them into a certain poſture, they pull them hard, and make them ſnap, crying out *Aquio* when they have done, which is as much as *your Servant* with us.

This Countrey is very fertil, well

well furnish'd with Fowl, and Rice, and Millet, of which they make all the bread, which they carry with them in their *Canoes* when they go out a fishing, which (as I have observed) they are very neat and exact in keeping clean.

He that would stay upon the place, might make very good advantage either by Rice, or Pepper, or Ivory, which is excellently good; their kindness has been always more conspicuous to the *French*, then either to the *Hollander* or *Portugal*, neither of which, they would ever suffer to cohabit with them.

On the three and twentieth by break of day, we discovered a little Fleet of *Canoes* of about forty, which were going a fishing, and within a quarter of an hour they dispersed themselves every way: Of the whole *Armada*, their was but

but one came up to us, with ſome few Elephants teeth, which he held ſo dear, he had his labour for his paines, and carryed them off as he brought them; whereupon we alſo weigh'd anchor for *Rio-Sanguin*, which is the firſt place upon the Coaſt of *Malaguette*, and about twelve leagues from *Rio-Sextos*; for four hours together we ſteer'd Southward to avoid the Rocks which ly in great numbers betwixt *Rio-Sanguin*, and *Rio-Sextos*, after which we ſteer'd Eaſt and by North, and came ſafe to *Rio-Sanguin*.

That the *French* had the preoccupancy of theſe Coaſts, in reſpect of all other Nations of *Europe*, I think is clear from the Names of ſeveral Bayes, and a hundred other monuments of their glory: But at preſent we have nothing left there, nor indeed any body,

but

but the *Engliſh*, who by means of ſeven or eight houſes, doe carry away as it were the whole profits of the place.

The *Portugais* ſucceeded the *French*, but being over-power'd by the *Engliſh*, and the *Dutch*, and beaten off from the Coaſts, in the year 1604. they retreated farther into the Countrey, and marrying with the Natives, have begot that generation of people, they call *Mauletto's*, or Olive-couler'd, and have by that means acquired ſuch an intereſt amongſt them, as have been the cauſe we have made no further diſcoveries there, and that they doe to this day go away with the whole Inland Trade; he that ſhould endeavour to ſhare with them being certain to be deſtroyed by their great influence and authority with the *Negros*: So that they have ingroſs'd that whole com-

commerce to themselves, passing up and down every where as they please, and running up the *Niger* as far as *Benin*, which is more then 800 leagues.

They it is that have been the loss of *Canboxi* to the *Dutch*, which is a little Island upon the *Niger*, two hundred leagues above the mouth of the *Gambie*.

Their authority over the *Moors* upon the Coasts is so great, they manage them as they think good, and we can never read that they have at any time rebelled against them, as they have frequently done against the rest of the *Europeans*; Nay so absolute is their Empire, they are many times served at the Table by the Sons of that King, which is so superlative a command, there can be nothing beyond it; Yet if any other *European* does but quarrel or affront any

of

of their Grandees, there is nothing but they will attempt which may contribute to their revenge. One of them who came to traffick with us at *Sierra-Leone*, told me, he did use every year to go to *Senegal*, which is two hundred leagues from *Sierra-Leone*, and that where he had not the convenience of a river, both himself and his Commodities were carryed up into the Countrey on the backs of the *Mores*.

They have all of them little Chappels, built near their houses, in which they use all possible means for the conversion of those people, and when they have had any success, and made a proslite, they hang Chappelets about his neck, and have a particular care of them ever after.

THE

THE COAST OF GRAIVES CALLED MALAGUETTE.

UPon the three and twentieth of *January*, the same day we set sayle from *Rio-Sextos*, we came to an anchor before *Rio-Sanguin*, where the Coast of *Malaguette*, or *Manigette* begins, and extends it self sixty leagues to the *Cape de Palmes*, about three degrees and forty minutes of Northern latitude, comprehending all these places, *Rio-Sanguin*, *Cestre-Crou*, *Brova*,

Brova, *Baſſou*, *Zino*, *Crou*, *Crou-ſeſtre*, *Wapo*, *Baton*; *Grand-Seſter*, *Petit-Seſter*, and *Golane*, all which places we viſited in nineteen days, which we dedicated to our traffick in thoſe parts.

Rio-Sanguin runs into the Sea South South-East, and will carry a *Petach* about twelve leagues, and no more; upon its bank it has a Town of about a hundred houſes, and large Trees on both ſides of it, but is not five hundred paces broad at the wideſt part of it.

That night there came a *Canoe* aboard us with three *Mores*, one of them was the Kings Brother, who having been three years in *Holland*, ſpake very good *Dutch*; he ſent back his Company, and his *Canoe*, and ſup'd and lodged with us that night. At ſupper he told us, that about a Month before, there was a *Flemiſh* Ship put in at

Rio-

Rio-Sanguin for freſh water and wood, but that diſcovering an *Engliſh* Veſſel making towards them, he weigh'd anchor and away, and being a good fayler, got off, and that the Veſſel that chaced them returned, and ſteer'd his old courſe for *Rio-Sextos*. He deſcribed the bulk of it ſo well, we concluded it was the Ship we had ſeen cruſing up the Coaſt of *Petit Dieppe*. He told us moreover, that a while ſince the *Engliſh* had a houſe at *Rio-Sanguin*, but for four years laſt paſt, they had none; and that a little Veſſel going by lately, had ſurprized about a douzain *Mores* near *Crouſeſter*, and carryed them away.

As we were hoiſting fayle on the five and twentieth, the King of *Rio-Sanguin* came aboard us, attended with two other *Canoes*, and about ten or twelve *Mores*.

He

He was an ancient man, very grave, and venerable, his haire very white, yet his perſon large and luſty; his habit blew, like their habits at *Cap de Monte*. That which was moſt remarquable was, he drank neither wine, nor Strong-water, nor Palme-Wine, nothing but pure water; he and his Brother both ſtay'd with us till night, and having received ſome preſents, they departed.

We had paſs'd the places above-ſaid, as far as from *Rio-Sanguin* to *Wapo*, where being at anchor, the third of *February*, about Sun-riſing, we diſcryed a Veſſel at Sea, making towards us with all the ſayle ſhe could make: We thought at firſt it had been the *Engliſh* Piqueroon we had been told off, for which reaſon we ſtood all that night to our armes, but the next day the hopes we had of over-powring and taking

taking her, vanished with the Vessel, which we could never see more.

Till *Saturday* the fifth we spent our time wholly in traffick, on which day, having come to an anchor at *Batow*, we discovered another Vessel coming towards us also with full sayles: The number of *Mores* who were then aboard us, hindered us from discovering them perfectly, but coming nearer, we could discry the Vessel to be as bigg as ours, whereupon we dismist our Merchants, weigh'd anchor, and stood towards them directly, resolved not only to defend our selves, but to venture upon them. When we were come within a league of him, he hung out his *Dutch* colours, and clapt his *Cornette* upon his *Sprit-sayle*, and we hung out our *French*. When we came nearer, we knew the Ship

to

to be a Frigat of *Amsterdam*, of about 400 Tunne, and 36 pieces of Ordnance, set out by a private person, and by the authority, and consent of the *East-Indy Company*, sent to *Ardres*. The Captain called *Villere*, having boasted when we were in the *Texel*, that if he found us upon these Coasts, he would either sink or take us; we took down our *French* colours, and put up a red flagg, endeavouring, and tacking three hours together, to get the wind of him, he had all his sayles out, and his capps up, and yet sayled worse then we. About Sun-setting he furled his sayles, and having lost the wind, and we within twenty paces of him, he made signes with his hat to know if we were not the *Europe*: he told us his name, and calling for a glass of Wine, began a good soup to our healths, and we

did

did him reaſon in our turne. After which he took his leave, continued his courſe to the *Mine*, and we came that night to an anchor before *Grand Seſtre*, called formerly by the French *Paris*; where the reſt of our time we ſpent in our Negotiations and Trade.

This Coaſt is called the Coaſt of *Malaguette*, in reſpect of the Pepper (which I have mentioned before) at *Rio-Sextos*, which amongſt the *French* is called *Malaguette*, or *Maniguette*, which commodity is more profitable then can be imagined, eſpecially if Pepper be dear, and the *Indy Fleet* comes not unluckily in, but if that falls out, it ſells not altogether ſo well: This is the principal Commodity of this Coaſt, and is ſharper and hotter then the ordinary Pepper, and particularly then the white.

All the Towns along theſe

Coasts are built upon the backs of some little River, or other which gives them their Names: The chief are *Rio-Sanguin*, the *Grand Sestre*, which runs a good way up into the Countrey, and is deep enough to carry a *Petach*: which the Inhabitants of *Dieppe* called *Paris*, in comparison of the aboundance of Pepper at both places.

All these Coasts are bordered with great Trees, the land very low, and fatt, and water'd with so great a number of Brooks, and Rivelets, that they render the aire so very unhealthfull, there are but few of the Whites can stay long there without being sick.

We understood nothing of their language, so they were put to explaine themselves by signes, they have no ill Physiognomy, their proportion is good, they go always naked

naked with their head, and have only a little piece of linnen before, for the ſhelter of their whole body: And though the aire be ſo ill, and unwholſome, yet they are ſo hardy and ſtrong, I ſaw one of them that had a Rupture hung down to the middle of his legg, and a luſty cutt over the Pate, that had lay'd his skull as naked as his back, and yet he came aboard us every day, ſmoaking and drinking Strong-waters, with the beſt of them, as if he ail'd nothing at all.

They work excellent well in Iron: at *Grand Seſter* they mended our ſhears for us, with which we cutt out our barres of Iron, and gave them ſuch a temper as made them incomparably better then they were at firſt.

Beſides this Pepper, this Coaſt affords *Rice* and *Millet* (of which they make their bread, and brought

us good ſtore of it) excellent Peas, (very tender and good, boyled) Beans, Citrons, Oranges, Bullys, and a kind of admirable Nutt, the ſhell ſomething thicker then ours, but without any skin over the kernell, but all round like your Almonds or *Piſtaccios* of *Spaine.*

They have likewiſe ſtore of Oxen, Cows, Goats, Hoggs, Pullen, and other Fowle, which may be collected from the price that they bear.

Their Palme-Wine is very good, and eſpecially the Plums, which are ſo pleaſant, I have ſeen them on Ship-board refuſe all that could be offered, to be crawnching of them; and this is all I can ſay of the Coaſt of *Malaguette*, for as to their Religion and manners, underſtanding but little, I ſhall ſay nothing at all, only I imagine

they

they have as many Wives as they can keep, for the *More* at *Rio-Sanguin*, told us his Brother had fifty, and himself fifteen.

The Inhabitants of *Dieppe* have traded long upon these Coasts, and were grown so cunning at their Trade, they had found the way of mingling this Pepper with that of the *Indies*, before it was grown so common, and the *Portugais* had discovered the Island of St. *Thomas*, and from thence diffused themselves all over *Guinee*, by which it appears we Traded there formerly, and every thing contributes to confirm it, for besides the *Grand Sester*, which retaines still the name of *Paris*, that little language they speak intelligibly is *French*: They call not Pepper *Sextos* with the *Portugals*, nor *Grain* with the *Hollander*, but *Malaguette* with us,

and if a Veſſel at any time comes in, when their ſalutations are over, they cry out as loud as they can, *Malaguette tout plein, tout plein, tant a terre de Malaguette*, which is *French* they learned from us, and nothing elſe.

If they meet any of their friends from a different place, they take one another by the upper part of the arme, and ſtretching them out, they cry *Toma*, then they come to the elboe, and graſping it hard they cry *Toma* again; and at laſt catching one another by the fingers, as I have obſerved at *Rio-Sextos*, they make them ſnapp as they did there, crying out, *Enfa Nemate, Enfa Nemate.* Which the *More* that ſpeak *Dutch*, interpreted to us, and told us it was no more then, *My dear friend how is it, all that I have is at your ſervice, even to my life it ſelf.* From which

which very complement we may conclude the language is more elegant then we imagine, to one that understands it.

THE COAST OF ELEPHANTS TEETH.

ON *Friday* morning the 11th of *February*, we weigh'd anchor before *Goyane*, and steered a South-East course, to double the *Cape de Palmes*, and avoid the Rocks which incompass it, which we continued for a while, and came at last to an anchor before *Grova*, which is the first place upon the *Teeth-Coast*.

This *Cape* is denominated from

the Palme-trees, which doe ſhadow it on all ſides near the Sea, it riſes in ſeveral hills, covered all over with thoſe kind of Trees, and lyes in four degrees and ten minutes of Northern latitude, and twelve and a half of longitude Eaſtward.

The Coaſt alſo takes its name from the vaſt quantity of Elephants teeth ſold there, which is ſo great, that though all the Ships that are bound for *Ardres* or the *Mine*, doe paſs that way, yet they ſeldome or never have any Merchandiſe left, which they bring thither to exchange.

It extends it ſelf four and twenty leagues, from the *Cape de Palmes* to the River *d'Aſene*, where the *Golden Coaſt* begins, and contains theſe places upon the Sea: *Crova*, *Tabo*, *Petit-tabo*, *Grand-drouin*, *Tao*, *Rio S. Andre*, *Giron*, *Petit-drouin*,

drouin, *Bortrou*, *Cap la hou*, *Jacques la hou*, *Vallochk*, and *Gommo*, where the ordinary trade is, where we ſpent ſeventeen dayes, without any conſiderable accident, unleſs it be that which happen'd at *Cap la hou*.

On *Saturday* the *26th.* being at anchor there, the Seamen diſcover'd a ſhip making towards us with full ſayl; we imagin'd at firſt it might be the *Engliſh* Privatier the *More* had given us notice of at *Rio-Sanguin*; we weighed anchor immediately, and made as faſt towards him, having put out our *French* colours, which he ſaluted with a volley of Canon, and hung out the colours of *Holland*, which we gratify'd with another. He ſent out his ſhallop forthwith to diſcover us, and although he which commanded underſtood very well the greateſt part of our

Equipage were *Flemings*, he could not be perſwaded aboard us, but return'd; a while after, the ſhallop came to us again, bringing their Lieutenant along, who came aboard, was civilly received, and ſtaid with us two hours; and in the mean time, this little Veſſel of *Brittainie* (though commanded by a *Zelander*, and was not above 100 Tunn) made like a Pinnace with 8 guns, and 40 men) ſayled round about our Veſſel, the Captain making his Drums and his Trumpets ſound all the while, with a thouſand other oſtentations of joy. He told us for news, that at his departure from *Fluſhing*, he came out with 26 other Privatiers in his company, but that they were diſpers'd in a Storm, and he heard nothing of them ſince: that as he was entring into *Sierra Leone*, he found the little Veſſel we

ſaw

saw as we came out, who complained, that the *English* man which we had imprisoned and ransom'd again, had siez'd his long boat or shallop, with nine of his men, whilst they were fishing, and that the same *Portugals* we had traded withall, had assisted them; whereupon he thought himself obliged to vindicate himself, and did it so effectually, that he beat the house down with his great Guns, kill'd several of the *Mores* which defended it, and rescued his nine men, paying three thousand weight of Ivory for their Ransome, which had not been done, had not the *Mores*, upon the approach of these two ships, carryed them all into the Woods; we gave him a Collation, and then he took his leave. About midnight, the Captain himself came aboard us to drink and be merry

merry with our Officers, but he told us no more then his Lieutenant, only this, that the *Mores* who were by us when we weigh'd anchor to meet him, had come to him, and told him, in these words, *If you be English, you must run for it, but if Dutch, you are safe enough.* After which they all clapt themselves down close in their *Canoes*, to attend what would follow, and in case we had fought, and one of us been sunke, to have had the benefit of the pillage: At his departure we gave him three Guns for a farewell, which he repayed exactly when he got aboard; we gave him a Cheese, two Barrels of Powder, and four Bullets, he told us he was bound for the *Mine*, from thence to *Ardres*, to *Capolopo* and *Gonsalves*; and that if he met with no prize there, he would go unto the Isles; but we heard afterwards

wards at the Isle of S. *Thomas*, that he pass'd by there with 400 *Negroes*, which he had taken about the *Cap de Lopes*, out of two Vessels, which had put in there for fresh water; the first yeilded without any resistance, the other having lost his maine mast, he sunk to the bottom.

The same day the *Mores* perceiving we were friends, came aboard us again, to finish their Markets, which being done, the next we set sayle for the *Golden Coast*.

This Country produces great quantity of Rice, Pease, Beans, Berrys, Citrons, Oranges, Cocho-nuts, &c. Besides which the Natives brought us Suger-Canes aboard, of a very considerable bigness. 'Tis one of the best Countries in *Guinee*, the Hills and the Valleys are admirable, the great

Rocks

Rocks of Mountaines, which are red, with the conſtant verdure of the Trees wherewith they are covered, by the variation of Colours make a delicious proſpect: But even of theſe places the *Grand Drouin*, and the *Rio S. Andre* are the beſt.

The *Grand Drouin* is ſituate in the midſt of a little River, which winds about a little Iſland betwixt two Mountains; it is encompaſs'd with excellent Meadows, and is waſh'd ſo gently by the water, you would think it was affraid to come near it.

Rio S. Andre of all *Africk* is the propereſt place for building, the River of the ſame name, runs up far into the Countrey, and not far from the place where it falls into the Sea, it divides it ſelf into two branches, one running North-Weſt, and the other Eaſt: It is bor-

bordered on both ſides with very fair Trees, environed with fine Meadows and Fields, and is deep enough to carry a Yacht an indifferent way up. The Rock at the Sea ſide, at the mouth of the River, is three hundred paces in circumference the top, which being flat, commands all the Countrey about it without any conteſt. 'Tis very ſteep towards the Sea, and on the Eaſt-ſide, and indeed inacceſſible, unleſs by the River on the Weſt, which makes it ſo near being an Iſland, that the cutting but of 15 paces of earth, would make it one entirely; On all other ſides it is encompaſs'd with Rocks under water, upon which even a ſhallop would be loſt: The freſh water which comes out of a Fountain at the foot of a large Mountain, which covers this Rock on the North-ſide, may be defended

defended from thence with the ſhot of a *Faucon*; and the Towns of *Petit-Drouin*, *Tao*, and *Groua*, are at no greater diſtance then the *Grand Drouin*, which is only one league and no more: From the top of this Rock *Giron* may be diſcerned on the Eaſt, built upon the ſide of a delicate large Meadow, and *Tabo* on the Weſt at the end of a faire Campagnia, planted up and down with curious Woods, which run up a good way into the Countrey, and terminate at the foot of ſeveral great Mountaines, which are viſible from thence.

Saturday the 9th of *February* we came to an anchor, and took in freſh water all the reſt of the day, as well as on the *Sunday* and *Munday* following, which gave me opportunity of conſidering theſe following obſervations: The water we took in at this place

ſerved

ſerved us almoſt till we came at the Iſle of *S. Thomas*: The Fountain is very pure, but being ſhadow'd by a very large Tree, at the fall of the leave, when they fall into the Fountain, they render it ſomething black for a time.

Upon theſe Coaſts they have great quantities of Bullocks, Goats, Kids, Hoggs, and Dear, which are ſo cheep, one may buy a good Beef of them for a douzain of knives of about twenty pence, and a good Roe-Buck for the ſame price.

The People are well made, ſtrong, luſty, their limbs large and fat, but their looks auſtere and dreadfull, and 'tis reported they doe eat the Whites: I never heard of any houſe built by the *Europeans* in theſe parts where they land but very rarely, and have as little to doe with them as they can.

'Tis

'Tis not above thirteen or fourteen years ago, ſince fourteen *Hollanders* were killed, and eaten at *Rio S. Andre*, as they were taking in freſh water, without any occaſion of quarrel; for which reaſon, we went always well armed, and were always upon our guard.

The common people wear only a linnen cloth before, but the Gandees, and Nobles of the Countrey are conſpicuous by a kind of Mantle they wrap about them, and a poyniard by their ſides. They are great lovers of great heads of haire, which they breid for one another very handſomly, and then bind them up upon their heads, but the Womens hair they uſually cut.

The women of *Giron*, and *Petit-Drouin*, had the curioſity to come and look upon us as we were taking in water, and to bring their daughters along with them, the linia-

liniaments and features of their faces were so just and regular, that (bate them the unhappiness of their complexion) they were absolute beauties: Amongst fifty of them which I saw, there was not any fatt or tall, wheras on the contrary not one of a hundred amongst the men but are both: The women have only a cloth before, and are the least covered I observed any where upon those Coasts; if there be any thing besides their colour amiss in their faces, it is, that they threaten revenge and mischief a little too much. When they come aboard any Ship, the Captain of it must come to them, and it is their custom whilst they have one foot upon their *Canoe*, and the other upon the Ship, holding by one hand upon the Rope, they dip the other in the Sea, and throw their handfull upon

upon his head, which is intended as a great inſtance of kindneſs and amity, and in this they are ſo pertinatiouſly ſuperſtitious, that without it they will never be forc'd nor perſuaded to enter any Ship: and when they would affirm any thing with more vehemence then ordinary, they uſe the ſame ceremony: They are ſo diffident and diſtruſtfull, they will never be got with all the art can be uſed, either under deck, or into any of the Cabaines, which the *Mores* of all other parts, would doe very freely.

They have a great fancy for bracelets of Iron, with rings and bells upon them, with which kind of Gallantry, moſt of their armes, and leggs, are plentifully furniſh'd; they have great ſtore of *Mulettoes* among them.

We could not underſtand their lan-

language, nor they ſpeak one word of *Portugais*: When they came firſt aboard us, they cryed, *Qua*, *Qua*, *Qua*, which we found afterwards to be as much as, *you are welcome*, or *good morrow*; for which reaſon the *Hollanders* have given the name of *Quaqua* to a good part of this Coaſt: they made great uſe of that word, eſpecially if their Gutts had been filled.

The Commodities which this Countrey yeilds, are Elephants teeth, ſo large ſometimes, that they weigh two hundred weight a piece, and then they are worth ten thouſand livers: If we may credit thoſe that live upon the *Gold Coaſt*, which are their Neighbours, they have ſo great number of Elephants, that they are forc'd for their ſecurity againſt them, to make their houſes under ground:

They

They kill as many of them as they can: but that which accommodates them with ſo many teeth, is, that the Elephants doe ſhed them every three year, as the Staggs doe their Hornes.

This Countrey affords likewiſe good ſtore of Cotton, of which they make a pritty ſort of Stuff, ſtrip'd with white, and blew, about three quarters broad, and three or four ells long, which is much valued amongſt them, and ſold afterwards at a good rate upon the *Gold Coaſt*, to cover their Peſantry there.

They have Gold amongſt them likewiſe undoubtedly, for without any Commerce or communication with their Neighbours, they bind up their hair for the moſt part with hair laces of Gold very curiouſly made; I made a ſign to one of them, to know which way

way they came by it, and he ſhow'd me the great Mountaines up the Countrey afar off, and ſign'd to me from thence. For which reaſon, he that ſhould make further diſcovery of theſe parts, would queſtionleſs encounter many rarities, and without any great difficulties, in regard the Countrey conſiſts for the moſt part of Plaines. The Inhabitants here are more afraid of fire arms, then of all the inventions in *Guinee*.

The 26 of *February* we weigh'd Anchor, and continuing our courſe *Sunday*, about evening we made the *Golden Coaſt*, and ſtood to it directly.

COSTE D'OR,

OR THE

GOLD COAST.

With a Relation of our occurrences there.

MUnday the last of *February*, we came to an anchor, in sixteen fathom low water, *Asbini*, the first place upon the *Gold Coast*: The Countrey thereabouts is very low: the Town is seated upon the mouth of a River of that name, which runs up North-West amongst the Hills, and South into the Sea, we stay'd there three days bartring for Gold-Sand.

The

The 4th of *March* we paſt before *Albiani*, *Tabo*, and other Towns, upon that Coaſt: The Countrey there is but low likewiſe, very full Trees, but no River at all: Thoſe *Canoes* which came aboard us having aſſured us, they had no Gold, we gave them the go by, and paſt on.

We thought to have doubled the *Cape* of *Apollonia* that night, but two of their *Canoes* coming up to us, and promiſing faire, we believed them and caſt anchor.

The next day ſome of their *Canoes* brought ſome Gold, which we bought of them, though it was not much: This *Cape* throws it ſelf a far into the Sea, and raiſing it ſelf by degrees into Hills, and then into a Mountaine, makes no unpleaſant proſpect. But it is of no good acceſs, the Sea beating ſo violently upon it, there is great danger in approaching: We

weigh'd anchor again that night, but the weather being calme, we could not reach *Axime* before *Sunday* in the afternoon, at which time we came to an anchor.

Axime is a Fort belonging to the *Hollanders*, some twelve leagues distant from the *Cape Apollonia*, situate upon the side of a River, which runs up Northward also into the Countrey, and abounds with Gold-Sand, which is esteem'd the best of all that Coast. Its banks are higher then either *Albini*, or *Cape Apollonia*: Before this place we stay'd all *Sunday* and *Munday*, but perceiving the *Dutch* obstructed the *Mores* coming aboard us, we weigh'd anchor on *Tuesday*, and doubled the *Cape de Tres-Puntas*, so called from three Mountains which appear so at a distance, and by the convenience of their position; doe make two little, but convenient Bayes.

In

In the afternoon we appear'd before *Botrou*, which is another little Fort belonging to the *Hollander*, ſituate beyond the *Cape* upon an eminence, at whoſe foot runs a brook that is not unpleaſant: We ſtay'd here as long as we had any Trade, and departed the 11th being *Friday*.

We weigh'd anchor at that time, and came to anchor again betwixt *Saconde* and *Takorai*, about ſix leagues diſtant from *Botrou*: they are ſeated amongſt the Mountains, which lean as it were upon the banks of the River they lye ſo near it; at which place, we receiv'd Letters from the Governour of *Frederisbourg*, not far from *Cape Corſe*, offring us his road (if we pleaſed) in conſideration of the alliance betwixt *France* and *Denmark*, deſiring us alſo to ſecure ſome of his Merchandiſe for him.

We remained there *Friday* and *Saturday*, and it was no ſmall trouble to me to ſee an ancient Fort which had been formerly ours, in its ruines and rubbiſh; it was at *Takorai*, upon a Mountain which commanded the whole Countrey, the ſides of it ſpake it but barren, being quite naked of either Trees or graſs, and the ſtone of a reddiſh complexion.

On *Sunday* the 23th we weigh'd anchor, and in two hours appear'd in the road *de Comendo*, whoſe Inhabitants are greater lovers of the *French*, then of any other *Europeans*: The Town (that may conſiſt of about a hundred houſes) is built on the Sea-ſide, and watered by a rivulet, which falling into the Sea likewiſe on the South, formes a pritty channel and Harbour for *Canoes*, and Shallops: The Eaſt-ſide lyes low, but the

West

Weſt riſes into a hill, which being flat a top, is very convenient to build upon. The houſe appertaining formerly to the *French*, ſtands upon the North-end of the Town, which runs up into the Countrey, and raiſes its ſelf into little hills by degrees, at whoſe feet there are very fair Fields, and Meadows, planted up and down with variety of fruit.

The *Mores* which came aboard us, were in great anxiety and diſorder to reſolve which way they ſhould ſignifie their joy. Their King held his Court ſome four leagues from us in the Town *de Grand Comendo*, he ſent us freſh meat, and other preſents, invited us aſhore to his Court, proffer'd us all the commodities of the Town, and ſent us word, that he had reſus'd a banner which *Walkenbourg* (who was General for the *Hollan-*

der at the *Mine*) had ſent him, and return'd him this anſwer; *That that Countrey had been alwayes in the poſſeſſion of the* French, *and that they only ſhould be welcome thither.*

We returned him many thanks, ſent him our preſents, and ſtay'd where we were to the 16th of *March*, and then ſet ſayle for *Frederisbourgh*, and came before the Caſtle of *Mine* before night: we found three Veſſels in that road, but not conſiderable. This Caſtle I ſhall ſay nothing of, being ſo famous both for its ſituation, the commodity of its Harbour and Fort, and the great Trade which is drove there.

Two hours after we paſt before *Cape Corſe*, where the *Engliſh* have a very ſtrong Fort, which made reſiſtance to all the *Dutch Fleet*, under the command of *du Ruiter*.

The

The Harbour is very safe, and the Castle fortifyed with three Batteries, one above the other: The Town consists of more then 200 houses, in the middle of which there is dayly kept so considerable a Market, that it is eminent for its plenty all over those Coasts.

At length about 3 hours after we came before *Frederisbourg*, and saluting the Governour with 5 Guns, he returned our civility with 3, which we again requited with one.

The Castle of that name was built by the *Danes*, in assistance to the *Mores*, after they were beaten from *Cape Corse* by the *Dutch*, which was taken from them again by the *English*, with the assistance of the *Dane*, and as a mark of their interest, he retains a great house at the end of the Town, with a *Danish* Officer and Garrison, and the colours of *Denmark* set out upon the top on't.

Frederisbourgh is ſeated upon a high Mountain, which runs up into a point: The whole circuit of it amounts not to 300 paces, and commands all about it, even *Cape Corſe* it ſelf, which is not above Muſquet ſhot from it: The forme of the Plott upon which it is built is round, but the Fort triangular, fortifyed with three Baſtions, one of them playes Southward upon the Road, the other Weſtward upon *Cape Corſe*, and the third towards the Fort *de Naſſau* or *de Moure* to the Eaſt. The foot of this Mountain (which is not above 100 paces high) and cannot be aſcended but by going about) is incompaſs'd by houſes which the *Mores* have built that inhabit there.

We were no ſooner at anchor, but we diſpach'd one immediately with our complement to the General,

ral, called *Henry Dalbreckhe*, a *Hamburger* borne; he was but a little man of his perſon, but fierce, and briske, and yet courteous with all, witt enough, and very civil.

He ſent his Secretary aboard us, by name *Daſſe* of *Amſterdam*, who had been there ſix years; he came in a *Canoe*, conducted by eight Slaves, which ſang and ranted all along as they row'd, which it ſeems is the cuſtom when they bring any Whites with them, and before they put them aboard, they row three times about the Veſſel, with as much force and expedition as they can row. As he enter'd, we gave him three Guns, and ſpent the reſt of that day and night in his entertainment: This night we had the greateſt ſtorme we had ſeen in all our voyage, in ſo much, we were oblig'd to caſt out our greateſt

anchor; but it ceaſt at laſt, and the next day having lay'd by ſuch commodities as the General had deſired, he took his leave and returned.

On *Saturday* morning our Notary going a ſhore with the Merchandiſe he deſired, they ſhot from *Cape Corſe* at our ſhallop, and the bullet fell within ſix or ſeven foot of them: The Governour of *Frederisbourg* immediately fired a great Gun upon the Caſtle, and the bullet fell at the foot of the ſecond Battery, to which they replyed, but without balls, ſeeing the General took us into his protection, and after that uſed no act of hoſtility more. The reaſon was, becauſe though there be war declared betwixt *England* and *Denmark*, upon the *Hollanders* accompt, yet the Generals of theſe two Forts have made an amicable agree-

agreement, to commit nothing of hoſtility betwixt themſelves, and it is ſo punctually obſerved, the Souldiers of both Garriſons meet dayly, eating and drinking together at their pleaſures.

The two and twentieth I went on ſhore my ſelf, and was receiv'd with all civility, and very good cheer by the General, he inquired of me what news, I anſwered him in Latin, which he ſpake very well, but no French at all: I underſtood from him that the Kings of that Countrey had been at wars four years, which was a great impediment to their Trade; that we ſhould find three *Engliſh* Veſſels in *Ardres* road, and that he was obliged to ſend proviſions to *Chriſtiansbourgh*, where the war was yet ſo hott, all that Countrey lay unmanured: in ſhort I was ſo much engaged to him, that

upon

upon ſeveral occaſions which I had to converſe with him, he us'd all means to ſatisfie my curioſity, and to inſtruct me in the manners of the Countrey.

All the reſt of that month, and the four firſt dayes of *April*, we ſpent in traffique, and on the fifth we diſcern'd a *Petach* paſſing towards the *Mine*, with a great ſhallop full of Souldiers which the *Dutch* General ſent to *Cormentin*, a Fort which belongs to them: we were utterly ignorant of the deſign, but were told afterwards by the *Mores*, that the Governour of that Fort being gone to *Anembou* with ſeveral of his Souldiers to drink and be merry (there being the beſt Palm-wine in *Africk*) had been ſeized upon, and all his company with him, by the King of that Countrey, in whoſe dominions *Cormentin* ſtood, and that

two

two of them endeavouring to defend themselves, were kill'd: the ground of this Insurrection was this; The King of *Fantin* having ingag'd himself to the *English* at *Cape-Corse*, to put them again into possession of that Fort, had given them his Son in hostage, and desiring to have him restor'd, and the *English* refusing till his Articles were perform'd, he had seized upon the Governour, and four other *Hollanders*, with design to exchange them for his Son.

Thursday the seventh of *April*, we had news that the Controuler general of *Holland* was kill'd at *Axime*, and the *Mores* of those parts had unanimously declar'd for the *English*.

That day we arrested two *Mores* in our ship, and kept them prisoners, to secure a debt due to us from two Merchants on shore; they

they continued two dayes with us, but the *Denmark* General interposing, we gave them their liberty, and were paid by the Merchants within eight dayes afterward.

On *Good-Friday* the 8th. of *April*, we weigh'd anchor in order to our passage to *Eniacham*, a Town about four leagues distance from *Frederisbourg*, who gave us his guns when we went off, and we return'd ours in requital. We sayl'd by *Moure*, where the Fort of *Nassau* is, which belongs to the *Hollanders*, and is some two leagues and a half from the Castle of the *Mine*. This Fort is scituate upon a Rock, flankt with four Baltions, the Sea washes the foot of it, and the Town of *Moure* (which consists of about two hundred houses) encompasseth it about on all sides but towards the Sea: it holds of the

King

King of *Acanis-petit*, as well as the Town of *Icome*, which is not above a quarter of a league from it, on the Sea-side too.

In the afternoon we came to an anchor before *Eniacham*, where the *Engliſh* have a little Fort upon a little Eminence, about ſix hundred paces within land: near which the King of *Sabou* has a Town, of whom *Eniacham* holds likewiſe. We ſaluted the Fort with three Guns, which they return'd immediately.

On *Eaſterday* the tenth of *April*, the *Mores* brought us good ſtore of their Palme-Wine, and aſſured us their Merchants would come down the next day, and bring us gold enough: On *Munday* they ſent us a *Fricaſſee* of Pullets, (which they dreſs as well as in *France*, as I ſhall mention hereafter) and acquainted us, that the King of

Fantins

Fantins Soldiers had entred *Sabou* in the night, killed four men, and taken ſeveral Priſoners. Upon which the Town of *Sabou* had ſent away their Wives and Children, and put themſelves in arms: We ſmelt their deſign, and reſolved to return that night to *Frederisbourg*, having nothing to doe at *Cormentin*, becauſe of the *Hollanders*, nor at *Akara*, by reaſon of the wars that King had with *Tacara*.

From *Eniacham* we could ſee *Cormentin*, but not diſtinguiſh the Fortifications by reaſon of the diſtance: It is ſcituate upon a Hill, and belongs to the *Hollanders*, who have a houſe at *Fantin* alſo, and another at *Nemabon*, a Town in the ſame Kingdom.

On *Tueſday* in the afternoon we ſet ſayle for *Frederisbourg*, by the benefit of a North wind from the Hills, which blows conſtantly on this

this Coaſt from midnight till noon, and about nine a clock we came to an anchor again: We ſtay'd there till we had put off all our commodities, and then away for the Iſle of *Saint Thomas*, having been two months upon the *Golden Coaſt*, and forty dayes in *Frederisbourg* road, where I went on ſhore again, to informe my ſelf more particularly of the manners and Cuſtomes of the Inhabitants of the *Golden Coaſt*: I had the good fortune to ſee the moſt of their curioſities, and to ſatisfy and informe my ſelf of the reſt from the General, the Miniſter, and the *Mores* of *Frederisbourg*, who all of them ſpake *Portugais*.

The Description of the

GOLDEN COAST.

THe Golden Coast lyes betwixt four degrees and a half, and six and a half of Northern latitude, and betwixt seventeen and twenty of longitude East: it has taken its name from the vast quantity of Gold is brought yearly from thence, as well from their Mines, as the Sand in their Rivers, and contains (besides the places above mentioned) *Rotou*, *Ronate*, and *Akara*, which lye more to the East; its extent is a hundred and thirty leagues. The bank of *Asbini* which is but low in *Axime*, rises near *Achema* to a Mountain, and then humbling it self to *Cape-Corse*, it raises it self again, and continues so the rest of the Coast;

the

the circumference, comprehending the inland Countrey and all, contains about four hundred leagues, divided into the Kingdomes of *Asbini*, *Axime*, *Comendo*, *Fetu*, *Acanis-Petit*, *Sabou*, *Fantin*, *Akara*, and the Seignories of *Abrambou* and *Takara*; all which depend upon the King of *Acanis le grand*, who is called *Akim* (whose Imperial Town is situate 90 leagues Northward of the *Mine*) and may be called an Emperour.

Of the Stature and Proportion of the People of this Countrey, of their Wit, Inclination, Industry, and Habits.

THe Inhabitants of the Golden Coast are handsome, and well proportioned, they have nothing disagreeable in their Countenance, but the blackness of their Com-

Complection; ſome of them have flattiſh noſes, and all of them little ears; their eyes are quick and ſparkling, but above all, their teeth as white as Ivory, of which they have a particular care, and for their conſervation, are perpetually champing a certain wood which grows in the kingdome of *Acanis*, which has a peculiar quality of making them white, of preſerving their gums, and preventing any blackneſs or rottenneſs in them. Though their beards appear not ſo ſoon as ours, yet they affect them exceedingly, and their Grandees and Officers wear them very long upon their chins, and ſome of them like the *Capuchins* with us. Their skin is black indeed, but ſmooth and delicate, without any hair, but as they grow old, their blackneſs leſſens, and their hair which is ſhort, black,

and

and frizell'd, grows grizled by degrees.

Their Stomachs are generally ſo hot, they do not only digeſt all kind of meats that are roaſted or boyl'd, but raw likewiſe; and ſome there are among them which prefer that to the other.

They are great lovers of cleanlineſs, and waſh themſelves dayly to prevent Vermin, rubbing afterward with oyl of Palmes. They are not at all aſham'd of their nudity, but they have ſo great an abhorrency and deteſtation of belching, or any ſuch thing, that they will ſooner die than do it; and if it happens at any time they be in the company of any *Europeans* that are guilty of it, they run out of the room immediately, making the horribleſt faces imaginable.

They have a great deal of wit, are ſolid in their judgements, cunning,

ning, and ſo dexterous and quick, one need never ſhew them the ſame thing twice: they are lyers to the higheſt degree, their memory tranſcendent, and though they can neither write nor read, yet they manage their Trade with the greateſt exactneſs: they never diſpute the commands which are laid upon them: you ſhall have a Merchant negotiating and managing four Marks of gold for twenty ſeveral perſons, every particular man deſiring five or ſix ſeveral Commodities, which he performs without hæſitation or miſtake.

Their addreſs appears abundantly by their dexterity in their Commerce, they are all of them given to pilfering, covetous to that point, eſpecially to the Whites, that they think they do a mighty act, if they preſent them with a little fruit: they are drunken,

drunken, luxurious, and much subject to the *Lues Venerea*, which is nó scandal amongst them: they are but ill pay-masters, and satisfie their debts with great difficulty and unwillingness: they are great enemies to cold weather, and endure it with much impatience: so proud, that their Merchants, (who are all of them Nobles, Captains, or other great Officers) march up and down the Streets with their eyes fix'd upon the ground, not vouchsafing so much as a glance upon the common people: behind them they have constantly a Slave with a chair in his hand, that they may sit down when they please, it being thought dishonourable to be too long upon their leggs: they never answer any ordinary person, but with great superciliousness, and never speak to them but with great Majesty:

to

to other people they are civil enough, and pay very much reſpect to the Whites, eſpecially if they be Officers, to whom they never ſpeak, but with their hat in their hand. The ſureſt way of gaining their affection, is to be civil to them, which they value more than any other thing one can do.

Though the manner of their habits be much different from ours, yet they are as curious and as proud in them, as the beſt of us. When their Officers or Merchants walk in the Streets, or are in tranſaction with any Stranger, they take a piece of Silk, Taffaty, or fine Indian Damask, about two or three Ells long, which they tye about their waſte, and afterwards bringing it betwixt their thighs, they let the two ends hang down before and behind almoſt to the

the ground. Sometimes they wrap other Stuffs about them, from their breaſt to their mid-legg, or elſe throw it over their ſhoulders like a Mantle.

They order their hair in ſeveral wayes; but rich, and poor, & all, are very curious in adjuſting it handſomely, & inventing new modes & gallantries to adorn it, it being the only buſineſs almoſt which gives their women imployment. Moſt of them have hats, ſome of Straw, ſome of the Bark of trees, ſome of Goats-skin, but their Slaves are diſtinguiſh'd by going bare-headed: they trim themſelves up with divers Necklaces of *Raſade*, and Bracelets, which they beautifie with little works of Gold, in honour to their God, after they have mutter'd out ſome of their Prayers over it: they have Rings or Jewels upon the ſmall of their

leggs, or elſe a ſtring of Coraile, or the barke of the Tree, under which they pay worſhip to their *Fetiches*.

Though they love exceedingly to be ſpruce, yet they are good houſe-wives of their cloths, never put on their finery but upon ſome ſuch extraordinary occaſion as I have mentioned, and then whip and off with them again as ſoon as they come home, folding them up carefully, and putting them into cheſts, which they buy of the *Europeans* for that purpoſe, where they lye ſnugg till ſome new opportunity brings them abroad again: Nevertheleſs from the King to the Cobler they affect change of apparel, to make themſelves more conſiderable, and that more or leſs according to their riches or gaines. And yet for all this in the main they are frugal enough,

will

will buy nothing that is superfluous, but what they doe buy, let it be ſtuff, or any thing elſe, they will be ſure it be laſting and good, or they will be ſure to have none of it, for all ſlight things they laugh at and deſpiſe.

Of the Women, their genious humor, and habits.

THe Women upon theſe Coaſts are generally well ſhap'd alſo, but ſome of them are little, and ſome great and corpulent: the young Women doe place their principal care upon the whitening their teeth, and adorning their hair.

They have witt enough, good *mine*, honeſt, and obliging, but much more courteous then the men; they are very grave, addicted to frugality in their houſes, but

to pompe and oſtentation abroad: But their laſciviouſnefs is above all, which they ſuck as it were with their milk, playing hoyty-toyty amongſt the young fellows ſtarke naked. There are but few of them barren before, but when married they are ſeldome over fertile, which may be attributed to their temper and complexion; for there is ſeldome any of them have above four or five.

The Virgins, (to pleaſe, and to enamour the young men, as ſoon as they are up every morning) take water and waſh; and then combe their haire (which they have in twice the plenty the men have) with great curioſity, plaiting and diſpoſing it in a hundred ſeveral modes and gallantries; gumming it with oyle of Palmes, inſtead of mouth glew, tying it with ribands if they have any, if

not

not adorning it with little pieces of gold, or a certain red cockle ſhell, which is very common amongſt them. Some of them paint their foreheads with red and white, and ſometimes their eyebrows, and cheeks: they cut and carve their skins about their ears, and temples, which riſing up in little blifters, they paint them over with divers colours, and fancy it a great addition to their beauty: they have all of them Pendants at their ears, they all of them love the Ribbands, and above all Ribbands, the red; they wear necklaces of Corail, or of *Raſade*, and bracelets not only upon their wriſts and their armes, but upon their leggs, and their ankles; the maidens for the moſt part have their bracelets made of the barke of that tree which is dedicated to their *Fetiches*, which

are their Gods as I ſhall ſhew hereafter. When they go abroad, if they be the Wives of Merchants, Officers, or Captains, in that Countrey, they have a piece of Silk, Taffaty, or other Stuff, either red, or blew, or violet-colour'd (which are the colours they are moſt pleaſed with) which they take and wrap about them, from the breaſt to the mid-legg, ſtuffing it out behind with a great Rouler. They have alwayes a great bunch of keys at their girdle, though they have many times never a Cheſt in the world: they wear Bracelets of Ivory, and Gold, and Rings in that abundance, one can ſee no fingers that they have ſometimes; and in this poſture they are fit to be ſeen: the common ſort dreſs themſelves as fine as they can too, but when they come in again, they are mighty

careſull

carefull to fold them up handſomely, putting on a kind of coarſe linnen with which they make ſhift to cover themſelves from the Navel, to the midſt of their Thigh. They love variety of habits too as well as the men, but the Virgins eſpecially, who make it their whole buſineſs from morning to night to ſpruce up themſelves, and make themſelves acceptable, above all to the Whites, whom they ſeem to careſs much more than thoſe of their own Complection.

Their Ladies of pleaſure, are not diſtinguiſhable in any thing, they are welcome wherever they go, and handſomely received by every body; but they are more mercenary and covetous than in any other part of the world.

Of their Marriages, and the Education of their Children.

I Happen'd to be present at a Marriage whilst I was at *Frederisbourg*, which was consummated in no unpleasant manner. The Father of a young man finding him at age to get his living himself, looks out immediately for a Wife for him, and having pitch'd upon one he thinks will be proper, he goes to his Son, tells him what he has done, advises him to see her, if they like one another, his Father desires her of hers, if they agree, they go all of them together with one of the Priests who gives them *Fetiches*, and in the presence of the whole Assembly, the Bride takes a solemne Oath upon the *Fetiche* to be true and faithfull to her good man; her

Groom

Groom promiſing on the other ſide as much to her very civilly, but no Oath of fidelity in the caſe. The Parents preſent one another reciprocally, and giving the Bride and the Bridegrrom what they are able to ſpare, they ſpend the reſt of the day in feaſting and jollity, and there's an end of the Marriage.

However this Lady has this advantage over her Spouſe, by being his firſt love, that he can never take another, but by her permiſſion, which yet her Ladyſhip is ſeldome ſo moroſe as to deny. But it was my fortune to ſee a young Merchant of the *Mine* who had worſe luck, his name was *Anthony*, he came ſeveral times aboard our ſhip, and never with leſs than ten or twelve Marks of Gold; amongſt other diſcourſe, I ask'd him one day how many Wives he

had, he told me but one, and the reaſon was, ſhe was ſo croſs grain'd a Jade ſhe would let him have no more; and then told me very ſeriouſly, that amongſt them that cuſtome was inviolable.

Nevertheleſs, all women knowing very well, that variety of Wives and Children is the greateſt honour and reputation to their husbands, and what they themſelves will boaſt of to Stangers: when they ſee their husbands grow wealthy, and in a capacity of maintaining them, they themſelves will preſs them to take more, which to ſpeak truly, are no other than Concubines, they being not at all concern'd for their liberty or incontinence: the firſt has this priviledge alſo, that ſhe lyes three nights ſucceſſively with the good man, whilſt the younger brood muſt be contented with one,

and

and that according to the priority of their Marriage. In ſhort, they live very lovingly together, and have ſeldome any jealouſies or animoſity amongſt them. A good Merchant, or Officer, will have twenty or thirty, according to his abilities. The *King* of *Fetu*'s Son-in-law had forty, by whom he had a douzain of daughters, fourteen to the douzain of the other Sex, and kept conſtantly a hundred Slaves to attend them.

In thoſe parts, who will may come into the Chamber of any Woman when ſhe lyes in: as ſoon as the Child is ſafe in the World, they bring the good Woman a bottle of drink made of Rice, and Mays, and Water and Wine, and *Malaguette*, (not unlike our Pepper Poſſet) which having taken off kindly, they cover her well,

and

and then leave her three or four hours to her devotions, which being over, she rises immediately, washes her Child, falls to her business, and there's an end of that labour; but (to be sober) I could not but admire very much the force of their temper, when I saw the very same thing done by a Slaves Wife at *Frederisbourg*.

As soon as they have wash'd their Child, the Father and Mother give it commonly a name, and for the most part, of some *European* or other they have been beholding to, that done, they wrap it in a kind of blanket, and then lay it in a skin upon the Rushes, where it lyes quietly till it be three weeks or a month old, after which time, the Mother carries it at her back upon a piece of wood with the leggs under her armpits, tying its two hands about her neck, where

it

it hangs all day, and never comes off, but when ſhe goes to Bed; and this is the reaſon why the Children of their Nobles, or better ſort, have ſeldome camous noſes, becauſe their Wives do not labour, nor carry their Infants about them, as the others do, whoſe Children ſleeping many times whilſt the Mother is walking or at work, knock their noſes againſt their Shoulders, and ſo in time they become flat: if they cry out for the teat, they throw their breaſts over their ſhoulders, and let them ſuck. Every morning they waſh and rub them with Oyl of Palmes.

By that time they be ſeven or eight months old, they lay them along upon the ground, drawing them forward upon all four, like Kitlings, which poſſibly may be the reaſon the Children go much ſooner in theſe Countreys than in *Europe*. Whilſt

Whilſt they be thus tender and young, the Parents put little works of gold about their necks, wrapt up in the rind of the tree where they worſhip their *Fetiches*, for fear the Devil ſhould run away with them, and when they come to be about four year old, they bind little branches of it (which they buy of their prieſts) about their armes, and their leggs, wreathing and bending them into a round figure, which they look upon as a great Antidote againſt any ſickneſs or diſaſter whatſoever. In this manner they continue their care of them till they be ſeven or eight years old, but after that they feed upon the ſame as the Father and Mother does, heaping up many time ſuch naſty things as they find in the ſtreets, which they eat afterward very heartily, when they are hungry: the boys

and

and the gyrles, being higledy-pigledy together, and all naked, it takes off much of their modesty, and is a cause they are never ashamed of any thing; to which may be added their want of correction, their Parents being so far from whipping them, they never so much as rebuke them in the least.

From the seventh or eight year of their age they learne to swim, which they doe with so much success and perfection, that when they are grown up, if their *Canoe* oversets at any time at Sea, they are not afrighted, but swim back again very quietly from whence they came, they will dive excellently well too, and fetch up goods or any other thing that is accidentally cast away, upon which score one may see the shore so full sometimes of little Blacks, one would

would thinke them ſo many young Divels.

At twelve year old they fall under the juriſdiction of the Father, who ſhews them which way to get their livelyhood: if he be a fiſherman he carries them to Sea, ſhews them how to make a *Canoe*, and which way to take fiſh; if a Merchant he teaches them the miſtery of Trading, brings them acquainted with Forreigners, and inſtructs them in this manner till they be eighteen or twenty, and can begin to doe ſomething for themſelves, then he gives them Slaves to doe their work, and all the care that is behind, is to help them to Wives, which from that time forward they are always contriving.

The Gyrles are imployed in keeping clean the houſes, in picking their Rice, beating their *Mays*, making

making their bread, managing their Kitchin, and buying or selling at the Markets what is to be bought or sold, sometimes they make baskets of rushes, sometimes matts (in which they are transcendantly excellent) sometimes weave, but above all their care is greatest of their Father and Mother, to see that they have their meat and drinke in good hours, and that nothing of their goods be imbezled; in short their is nothing of good housewivry or frugality, that is wanting amongst them, and when they are once marryed, they may teach that lesson to most of the Women of *Europe*.

Of their Houſes, Houſhold-ſtuffe, Drinke, Meat, Palme-Wine, and how it is made.

THe great Commerce they have had with the *Europeans* having learn'd them the art of building, the Officers and great Merchants of this Countrey have follow'd their directions, and built themſelves houſes, with high and lofty roofes, ſeveral appartements, with one chamber opening into another, and uſually at the door of their chamber two Slaves conſtantly attending with darts in their hands in the nature of guards, which are releived at certain hours.

All their houſes are made of earth, but the common people have their walls ſo low, they ſeldome exceed the height of a

man.

man. Their beame and rafters, and the whole frame of the houſe reſting only upon them: the houſes of the Grandees as well as the commons are all thatch'd, and have all of them but one little ſquare hole, which ſerves for a door, to which they faſten a piece of board, without either lock or hinges, like the poor Peaſants in the Countrey to their Garden-doors, and are contented to faſten them only with a rope, either without or within. Their windows are ſmall, the earth they make their floors with, very cloſe and compact, they have at leaſt two chambers to a houſe, and this character muſt be given them, that they are very curious in keeping them neat, and paint them very frequently both without and within.

Amongſt the common ſort, there

is

is nothing of houſhold-ſtuff, or what is us'd commonly about the houſe, to be ſeen, all is lock'd up in their Coffers, which they buy of the Whites; except they be Merchants or great men, and then their Tables and Chairs appear ſometimes, but never no Beds, for they lye alwayes upon Skins ſpread upon the ground, or elſe upon Mattreſſes made of Ruſhes, covering themſelves with the Skins of Oxen, or ſome other Beaſt, without any Boulſter, except they be of the Nobles, and then they have Pillows under their heads, and a good fire in the middle of their Room, but not the leaſt hole for a Chimney.

Every woman has her appartment, or little houſe, joyning to her Husbands, conſiſting of one or two Chambers, where ſhe manages her own affairs by her ſelf, ſeldome

ſeldome eating or drinking together. Some of them go a Goſſipping to their Neighbours, and carry ſuch as they have along with them. The good man takes the ſame courſe, and he viſits his Merchant, not ſo much as concerning himſelf how ſquares go at home, the women being alwayes very punctual to accommodate them with every thing neceſſary, and to bring up their Children carefully; yet ſometimes on their Feſtivals, or upon ſome great occaſion, their Stomachs come down, and they feed very lovingly together.

As the women have the charge of the houſe and the money, ſo they make it their whole buſineſs that neither of them miſcarry in their hands. The men imploy themſelves conſtantly abroad, either in matters of Trade, or in making of Palm-wine, or Fiſhing,

as

as every mans genious inclines him: when they have got any money they give it ſtill to their wives, who order it ſo well, they never make the leaſt unneceſſary diſburſement; they go every night themſelves into the grainaries, delivering out ſuch a proportion of corne as they judge will be neceſſary for the whole family the next day.

By break of day the young gyrles are up and at worke, beating their *Rice*, and their *Mays* (which is called *Turky* wheat amongſt us) in a wooden Mortar, and when it is bruis'd, they grind it (as the Painters do their colours) betwixt two ſtones, and ſo reduce it to powder, then kneading it with water and ſalt, they divide it into a kind of penny loaves, and put it into a great earthen pot that ſtands upon the fire with a little earthen

earthen lidd; they throw embers upon it and 'tis done, if it be well bak'd, 'tis very good, and without any ill reliſh at all.

Their food generally is fiſh, though they have great ſtore of fleſh alſo, which they boyle or roaſt as they think good, but their fiſh is moſt commonly bak'd, being ſeaſon'd firſt with water, and pepper; and ſalt: the great Merchants who have Slaves to wait on them at the Table, doe eat *a l'Europeenne*, and have their *Ragouſts* as well made as in *France*, which they learn'd of us, and the Cook at the Fort of *Denmark*; yet there are ſome *Mores* will make a *Potage*, or a *Ragouſt* with the beſt *Cuiſinier* in *Paris*.

They eat great ſtore of fruit, of Peas, Beanes, and ſuch like: they make uſually but two meals a day, that is at Sun-riſing, and Sun-ſetting,

ſetting, where they feed like Cormorants, and when they have eat never ſo much, are hungry ſtill, which I impute to nothing but an exceſſive heat within them, which gives them a *Canine* and perpetually infatiable appetite, in ſo much that I have obſerved them when they have been at dinner a Ship-board, one Black has eat as much as ſix of us could doe.

Their Mornings-draft, is either of water, or a kind of ſmall beer, which they call *Poitou*, and is made of *Mays*, but 'tis night before they drinke any Wine, and the reaſon is becauſe the Peaſant never brings it to the Market till after dinner.

The Palme-Wine comes out of a Tree, not unlike our Date-trees; the *Mores* make a hole at the top of the tree, to which they faſten a pott, like one of the Monkes pitchers,

chers, and the next day, or the day after, they find it full of a kind of juice like Milk, ſweet, and very pleaſant, but with a quality to inebriate. The *Mores* have got a trick of late to ſophiſticate it, and put water amongſt it for their gain, but 'tis no hard matter to diſcover it. This Wine cannot be kept till next day, but will grow ſower in a nights time, upon which grounds, the Merchants, and other good fellows do meet, and drink ſmartly many times, but with this ceremony alwayes, that they leave a little in the bottome, which they throw upon the ground in honour of their *Fetiſhes*.

Thoſe who have no proviſion, nor means to make any, are forc'd to buy what they want (at a little Market hard by) with what they have got by fiſhing, by

making Palme-Wine, by building or repairing of houſes, carrying home what the Merchants have bought on Ship-board, and ſuch other ſervile imployments as our Mechanicks in *France* live by: to which Market the Whites go alſo ſometimes when their Stomach hangs after fiſh.

Of their Markets, their manner of buying and ſelling, with a deſcription of their Meaſures and Weights.

THe beſt Market in all *Africk* is held every day at *Cape-Corſe*, but we being at wars with *England*, I could have no ſight of that, and therefore muſt be contented with the Market at *Frederisbourgh*, which is not indeed ſo bigg, but there is the ſame thing obſerved in a place deſigned for

for the ſame uſe, and that is, that it be ordinarily in the midſt of the Town.

By break of day the Peaſants come in with their Sugar-canes, bound up like Fagots, their fruits of all ſorts, *Plums*, *Potatoes*, *Turnips*, *Carrets*, *Citrons*, *Oranges*, *Rice*, *Mays*', *Malaguette*, *Bread*, *Pullets*, *Fiſh*, *Eggs*, and whatever is neceſſary for the life of man; after Dinner their Palm-wine comes in, and what Fiſh is taken ſince the morning.

They have never no confuſion in their Markets, each Commodity has a peculiar place aſſigned for it by the Merchant, which is obſerved with great order; their Tobacco is ſold in the leaf, which being dryed by the fire, they light it and ſmoak, their induſtry as yet not having been great enough to make it up into Rowls.

There is no such thing amongst them as trusting or credit, no Money no Merchandise there, every one brings his Gold in his hand: If the Commodity be of small price, they take their Gold and poise it upon the end of their finger, adding or subtracting as they think fit; but if considerable, and of great value, they out with their Scales and weigh it.

Their Scales are made of two flat pieces of Copper something broader than our Crown pieces, which they hang by a thread at the end of a short stick, and ballancing so exactly, there can be nothing more true. Having no Needle, they make a noose of thread wth their thumb and fasten to the middle, in which, instead of weights, they hang a certain red grain they call *Tacous*, each of which grains weighs about two-

penny

penny weight, with which *Pian Piano*, they will weigh a *Mark of Gold*; yet there are some great Merchants which have Scales like ours, which they have bought lately of us.

All that comes to this Market, (which is kept every day in the week (*Sunday* excepted) is Tribute free, and pays no duty to the King.

There are others that resemble our Fairs, and fall out not above twice in a year, to which all the whole Countrey repairs, for there is never in any of those Kingdoms two Fairs kept in one day, lest one should be a hindrance and disadvantage to the other. By the report I have had, 'tis to these places they bring the best and finest of their things, and whatever they buy of us, as likewise to the ordinary Markets which are kept farther

up into the Countrey, but to thoſe Markets which are kept nearer the Sea, there is nothing comes but what is neceſſary to humane life, which the Peaſants bring (like ſo many Mules) upon their backs, and that but from five or ſix places; yet ſo ſtrict are they in their Religion, and do ſo much poſtpone the conſiderations of their advantage and gain, that if any of theſe Fairs does happen to fall out upon a *Sunday*, it is *ipſo facto* put off till the next day.

THEIR

THEIR RELIGION.

Of their Sundays, Feasts, Devotions, Gods or Fetiches, *of their Sacrifices, Priests, and Habits.*

THough amongst these poor people, there is not the least tincture of the true Religion to be seen, yet they observe a Sabboth (which is our *Tuesday*) very strictly: Every man rests that day from his labour, the Peasants bring nothing to the Markets, and no man is permitted to traffick, unless it be those upon the Seaside, who have liberty to go aboard any Vessel in the Road, and to truck and make bargaines as they please. The rest imploy their times wholly at their devotions, and doe observe

it with much more punctuality then we doe our Sundays with us.

They meet altogether in a place, in the middle of which there is a great Tree, called the Tree of their *Fetiche*, of the barke of which they make the fillets, with which they bind their little pieces of gold to their armes, and their leggs. At the foot of this Tree a Table is spread, (the feet dreſt with ſeveral Crowns and Garlands made of the boughs of trees) upon which they ſet Rice, Millet, Mays, Fruit, Meat, and Fiſh, with Wine, and Oyl of Palmes, to eat and drink to their *Fetiches*, they dance, and ſing, and jump up and down all day about this Tree, making a moſt obſtreperous noiſe with Copper Baſins, and other inſtruments for the purpoſe.

They waſh their faces that morning

morning with particular care, and more exactly then all the weeke after. The first bit of whatever they eat, they throw down upon the ground in honor of their Gods, and at night the Captain or Governour distributes Palme-Wine to all the Inhabitants, the Peasants being obliged to bring it to him that evening.

Ask them about any thing of their faith, and they will look down upon the ground, but never give you an answer; only one of them told us that we had a very good God, that gave us so many fine things: They all of them believe an other life, but where, whither above or below, they cannot tell. For which reason, least their Father or Mother should be hungry and starve, they put meat and Palme-Wine very often into their graves, to the end

that if they be thirſty or hungry, they may repair thither, and be relieved.

When they hear it thunder, rain hard, or the wind blow very ſtrong, there is not one of them to be ſeen in the ſtreets, all hide themſelves in their houſes, and cry, *the Gods of the VVhites are angry.* I ask'd one of them of what colour his God was, and he told me black: The Devil is ſo dreadfull to them, they tremble at his very naming, they ſay he beats them, and makes them doe ill things for their *Fetiches*, for whom they have an incredible ſuperſtition, though they be all of them inanimate, and ſome of them ſo naſtily villanous, one would not touch them with a paire of tongs.

They every body carry ſome of them about with them, ſome are made of the end of horns, fill'd up with

with ordure, others of little figures, as the heads of ſome creature or other, and a hundred ſuch like impertinences, which their Prieſts ſell them at their own price, and pretend they found them under the tree of the *Fetiche*.

They tye this tree about (which is the place where they ſacrifice) with little roaps of ſtraw, and after their Ceremonies are over, they take thoſe ropes, and ſtringing their gold work upon them, they faſten them to their armes and leggs, and then thinke themſelves ſafe againſt any miſchief whatever.

For the preſervation of their houſes, they have a ſort of *Fetiches* which are planted at their doors, and they are no better then our poles, or hooks, we pull down the boughs with all when we gather our fruit: Of theſe *Fetiches* their

their Priests set a great number about a stone, which (by their tradition) is as old as the world, and when they have been there a certain time, the Priests sell them to the people.

If at any time any trouble befall them, they repair immediately to their Priest, for a new *Fetiche* (the old one is to be trusted no longer) who most graciously supplies them for their money, and into the bargaine, *he gives them a piece of Suet, or Tallow, with two or three Parrets feathers set right up, or else a certain hearb*, the King of *Fetu*'s Son-in-law had the head of an Ape for his *Fetiche*.

They doe all of them abstain from some thing or other, in honor of their *Fetiche*, with this opinion, that if ever they eat or drink of that, after they promis'd abstinence (which is usually at their Mar-

Marriage) they ſhall die upon the ſpot; for which reaſon, one eats no Beef, another no Goat, another no Hens, this man drinks no Wine, and the other no Strong-waters, which they obſerve ſo exactly, they will ſooner dye than be perſwaded or forc'd to the contrary.

These *Fetiches* I have ſpoken of hitherto, are but private *Fetiches*, and belong but to particular men: but they have another ſort of *Fetiches* which are tutelary to the whole Countrey, as for example, ſometimes ſuch a Mountain, ſometimes ſuch a kind of Tree, ſometimes ſuch a Stone, ſometimes ſuch a ſort of Fiſh, or ſuch a ſpecies of Birds, which they look upon and worſhip as ſo many Gods. If a *Negroe* by accident kills any of thoſe Birds, he is puniſh'd ſufficiently, and if a White,

he

he runs a great hazard of his life. I saw one of these Birds at *Frederisbourg*, a little thing about the bigness of a Wrenn, with a Beak like a Linnet, mark'd with black and white, and the Feathers a kind of light brown: if any of these at any time are seen flying about in the Gardens of a *More*, 'tis look'd upon as a good Omen, and he throws it meat immediately.

The Consecrated Trees are ordinarily those about which their Sacrifices are perform'd; they believe whoever cuts such a one down, destroys (without more adoe) all the fruit in the Country: and therefore if there be any such Malefactors, they are punish'd with death, as it happen'd to the *Hollanders* at *Moure* in the year 1598, before they had built the Fort of *Nassau*, where 8 or 10

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of them were killed the 8*th.* of *May*, for having cut down a Tree dedicated to their *Fetiches.*

The higheſt Mountains, and ſuch as are moſt ſubject to Thunder and Lightning, they imagine are the Reſidences of their Gods, and therefore they pay great honour and reſpect to them: at the bottom of them they will lay *Rice*, *Millet*, *Mays*, *Bread*, *Wine*, *Oyl*, and other things, that they may eat and drink if they be hungry or dry.

Their Stones (which they fancy to be *Fetiches*) are like our great Land-marks in the Countrey, (or ſuch as are laid to diſtinguiſh and determine the bounds or limits of a Countrey Pariſh) and they believe them as old as the world: about theſe it is their Prieſts do ſet their Cruches which they ſell afterwards to the people for

for conservation of their houses, as I mentioned before.

Besides these *Fetiches* aforesaid, if five or six Neighbours build near one another, in any place divided from the rest of the Town, they will have a *Fetiche* to themselves, and will sacrifice and pray to him for their preservation.

Thursday the fourteenth of *April* being at *Frederisbourg*, whilst they were at prayers above, I went down, and at the entrance of a house which stood alone by it self, I observ'd a man and a woman, bleeding of a hen (which they had prick'd on purpose) upon certain leaves which they had plac'd upon the ground, and after it had done bleeding, they cut it into mamocks, threw them down upon the leaves, and then turning their faces upon one another, and kissing their hands, they cry'd,

Me

Me Cuſa, *Me Cuſa*, *Me Cuſa*, which is as much as to ſay, *Make me good.* I let them alone till their ceremony was done, and then ask'd them what they were about, they told me, that the *Fetiche* of that quarter had beaten them, and they by way of attonement, had given him a hen for his dinner: As I was looking down upon their leaves, (or an herbe rather which grows upon the Sea-ſide) they deſired me not to touch them, and told me whoever eat of that Pullet, in half an hours time, would be as dead as a herring, but I was ſo ſtout-hearted, I took it up, had it broyl'd upon the coales, by my Lacquay, eating ſome part of it in their preſence, and throwing the reſt to the piggs: the poor people were amazed, and ſtood gaping to ſee me fall down dead, or ſinke over head and ears into

the

the earth immediately: I ask'd them to see their *Fetiche*, they carryed me into a little Court, to a kind of a Tyle wrapt about with straw, and told me that was the *Fetiche* which had beaten them. Well said I, I'le be reveng'd, and throwing it on the ground, I brake it into a hundred pieces, and planted a Cross in the Room on't. I taught them to signe themselves also, broak all their Cruches about the doore, and having given them each a little cross for their pockets, and bid them when ever the *Fetiche* came to plague them again, that they should signe themselves with the signe of the cross, take that out and kiss it, and they should hear no more of their *Fetiche* ever after; they hear'd me very patiently, and made such relations at home, that a whole Church of them came to me next day

day desiring to swop a *Fetiche* for a Crucifix: We came immediately to a bargain, and when I began to examine my *Fetiche*, I found it nothing but a piece of putrify'd earth, nointed over with suet, and grease, and oyle of Palmes, with five or six Parrot-feathers bolt up right in the middle, to which morning and night they pay'd their constant devotions.

I perswaded them afterwards to shew me to their *Fetiche General*, which they did: I found it in a plaine where they made all their Sacrifices; it was nothing but a stone covered with earth, which I routed immediately, and brake five hundred of their poles which they had planted about it; from thence I went to their Priest, to see what *Fetiches* he had to sell, he told me I had one, which was one of the poles I had brought

along

along in my hand, and would have had me pay'd him for't: I took him by the elbow, and carry'd him to the *Maſter Fetiche*, and when he ſaw he was demoliſh'd, Lord? what a pickle he was in, he roar'd and cry'd out to his Neighbours, and all of them lookt upon it as a miracle that I was not as dead as a door-naile in the twinkling of an eye. I told him, Sir for your payment I have ſet up this Croſs, and whoſoever touches it (unleſs upon his knee) is a dead man in a minute; at which words, they run home as faſt as they could, yelling and crying out to one another, whilſt I return'd to the Caſtle.

They have ſo great an opinion, & veneration for their Prieſts, the whole world is not able to diſabuſe them: if they have one bit better then other, 'tis kept for them; they are the only people amongſt

the

the *Meres*, that are ſuffer'd not to worke, are nouriſh'd at others coſt, and chareſs'd all ways they can thinke of, to the end they may afford them their prayers. They ſell *Fetiches* (as I have ſaid before) to the common people, perſwading them, they found them hanging upon the *Fetiches* Tree, which they believe ſo obſtinately, their own eyes are not ſufficient to convince them; for if at any time they ſee the contrary, they will ſooner believe it an illuſion, then imagine their Prieſts would deceive them: ſo blind are theſe poor people, being led by thoſe who are blinder then themſelves.

The Habit of their Prieſts reſembles a Coat of Armes, and is made of ſome coarſe linnen, or ſergo, about which they have a ſcarfe ſet with little bones of broyl'd Pullets, like the Cockle-

ſhells

ſhells worn by the Pilgrims of *St. Michael*; the reſt of their bodies is quite naked, they have garters about their leggs, made of the Fibers of their *Fetiche* Tree: all people, even to the Kings themſelves, are ambitious of their friendſhip, that they may intreat their *Fetiches* to be favourable to them, eitheir in their Trade, or any thing elſe.

For my part, I believe they are made all of them by the Prieſt, and that they talk and converſe with the Devil, who communicates with them, and teaches them which way to cheat the people ſo eaſily; and that which makes me ſay it, is this, they alwayes mutter out ſome words to their *Fetiches*, before they deliver them.

Of

Of their Superſtition, their Swearing upon their Fetiches, *their manner of pacifying them, when they think they are angry, and the Burials of the Dead.*

THeir Superſtition towards their *Fetiches*, is ſo poſitive, and dogmatical, nothing in this world is able to convince them. Their chief end in carrying them about them, is to keep them from any ill might befall them, and when any does, they believe the fault is in themſelves, and that they have not perform'd their duties towards them.

They dread Swearing by their *Fetiches* above all things, believing it impoſſible to live an hour after, if they ſwear falſe; for which reaſon, when the good woman goes to the Market, or abroad at any

any time, the good man takes his *Fetiche*, and putting it into a cup of drink made with Palme-wine, he gives it her, and makes her ſwear to be faithfull to him in his abſence, & ſwears her again (whether ſhe has or not) when ſhe returns.

When we were before *Asbini*, there was one called *Attire*, who complain'd that he was robb'd of a Mark of Gold in our ſhip: Monſieur *Wamesk* took a cruſt of bread, and bid him ſwear by his *Fetiche*, and then (eating that) wiſh the Devil might carry him away in an hours time, if it were not true; but his Conſcience being too tender, he refus'd it, and made himſelf ſo ridiculous amongſt his Brethren, he never durſt appear in our ſhip afterwards.

The eight and twentieth of *April*, being with the *Daniſh* General about Supper time, the King of

Fetu's

Fetu's Son-in-law (called *Janque Sanece*) arriv'd, the General suspected he had nimm'd away a Ring from him, but his Excellence protested the contrary, offering to swear, and to swallow his *Fetiche* upon the premises. I had a great mind (upon the tydings) to be present at the Ceremony; I went in, and found a Faggot of Thorns in a Basket which a Slave carry'd under his Arm, cover'd over with a Skin, I made bold to uncover it, and in the middle of the Faggot, I saw a piece of Suet and Wax, with Parrots Feathers, little burnt Bones of Pullets, Plumes of the Bird which was *Fetichissimo* of that Countrey, and several other nastie things with them. One of their Priests was present, who told him he had made it as strong as was possible, and that if he ly'd, he could not out live it a

quarter of an hour; for all that, he took a piece of bread, and a glaſs of Wine, and was falling to work, but the General ſtopt him, and would not ſuffer him to drink it. I put my hand to this *Fetiche*, the Prieſt ſaw me, ſtarted, and bid me have a care, *If I took it up, I was a dead man.* I lifted it out of the basket for all that, he ſtept back, and cry'd out to me, if you turne, or move it, the fire will fall down from Heaven, and conſume you: I took it and twirld it three times on the right hand, and as many on the left: and then threw it daſh againſt the ground, leaping upon it, and breaking it into a thouſand pieces. They ſaid I would dye in the morning, and were very much amazed to find me a live afterwards. But they recollected, and told me, *I was not dead, becauſe I did not believe*: I an-

answered, *They were fools, not to be as great Infidels as I?* They replyed, *It was impossible, their Fetiches would not suffer them.* Quoth I, Who is this *Fetiche*? They told me, *It was a great black Dogg*, that appear'd very frequently at the foot of a great Tree. I ask'd them, *If they had seen him?* they told me, *No*, but their Priests, and he, were very great, conferr'd notes often, and they gave them a relation of their discourse.

Besides the ways of appeasing their *Fetiches*, which I have mentioned before, they have other whimseys as memorable: If they have not so good fortune a fishing, as they use to have, they imagine their *Fetiche* is offended, and has driven them away. If their Trade be but dull, they are of the same opinion, believe them to be the cause, and fall to their devotions immediately.

If a poor fisherman goes out, takes little, and returnes after all his patience and paines, not much richer then he went, he concludes his *Fetiche* is disgruntled, repairs presently to his Priest, presents him with a token of his Love, and with tears in his eyes, begs of him, that he would set them to rights again; after which he marches with his Wife and Children (as neat, and as trim, as hands can make them) to the Sea-side, with great branches of their *Fetiche* Tree about their necks, which after certain ceremonies they throw into the Sea, with *Rice*, *Millet*, and *Mays*, crying out a thousand times, *Me cusa*, *Me cusa*.

If the King observes that Gold comes not down so plentifully as formerly, or that his Traffick, and duties decrease, to work he goes in-

inſtantly with his *Fetiche*, he prayes, he ſacrifices, he treats, ſpreading of meat, and drink, about the Mountains and Trees that are conſecrated to him, which the Miniſter of *Frederisbourg* told me he had many times ſeen.

Having ſeiz'd upon two *Mores* on *Holy-Thurſday*, to ſecure ſome debts we had owing us upon the ſhore. On *Friday* morning we obſerved one of them to waſh his face more then ordinary, to mutter out ſome words to himſelf, and to take water, and throw it behind him: we ask'd him for what reaſon he did ſo, and he told us; it was to implore the *Fetiche* for raine, that Gold might be waſhed down from the Mountains, and the Merchants inabled by that to ſet them at liberty.

After they have ſowne their Corne (of the manner of which

I ſhall give a relation by and by) that night they burn all the thorns they can find in the field, and then ſkipping, and dancing, and ſinging, whatever they have more then ordinarily precious, they throw it (with Palme-Wine) into the fire, conceiving thereby to render their *Fetiche* more favorable in their Harveſt: By which we may ſee the deplorable blindneſs of thoſe poor Creatures, and be excited to give God thanks, who has illuminated us with the rayes of the Goſpel.

The General of *Frederisbourg*, having notice that there was one of them dead in the Caſtle, gave me advertiſement immediately that I might be preſent at the funeral ceremonies, a thing which the *Mores* will never permit, but by conſtraint.

When any one dyes amongſt them,

them, they put the body into a Coffin made of Oſiers, the barke of Trees, or of Ruſhes, which indeed is no more than a panier, the women, the relations, friends and neighbours that are there, run up and down the houſe, crying, and lamenting, and interrogating the dead perſon why he would leave them.

If it be a woman that dyes, her daughter or ſome other woman, (for the men are never called to their funerals) goes from houſe to houſe complaining and making her moan, and with the gold ſhe finds about her, or in the houſe, buys an Ox or a Sheep, which ſhe gives to the Prieſt, to pray to the *Fetiche* of the dead perſon, to conduct her into a place of repoſe: the Prieſt orders this Ox, or Mutton, to be killed, and then ſprinkling the blood about in

honour to her *Fetiche*, he begs of it, that it would not interrupt her in her passage to the other world, and that it would pardon whatever she had done amiss. Those who are present being put by him into a ring, in a corner of the Chamber, he places himself in the midst, and dress very sprucely with *Rassade*, Corail, or plates of Gold, sets a great quantity of Pease, Beans, Rice, Mays, and Oyle of Palmes about them, and then sprinkles them with the blood of a Pullet, which is killed, and afterwards makes a kind of a necklace of certain hearbs, which he hangs about his neck, whilst the good women cut the Pullet into morsells, and present them before the *Fetiche*. After this the Priest having muttered out some prayers to himself, he takes water, or Palme-Wine in his mouth, and spirts it upon

the

the moſt antient of the *Fetiches*, from which he takes a proportion of ſuet, and greaſe, and mingling it with the leaves of his coller, and other things, he ſtamps and bruiſes them altogether with his feet, till they be brought to a conſiſtence, then making them up into a great maſs, he ſeparates again into ſeveral little pieces, which being wrapt up in the rind of a conſecrated tree, he diſtributes to the whole company, reſerving a part to be buried with the corps, to make her journey more proſperous into the other world, and theſe *Fetiches* are lookt upon as the moſt propitious of all.

This Ceremony being over, the body is expos'd about half a day, with the head bound about, and the arms extended, after which the women carry it to the place of its Sepulture (it being their Pro-

vince to bury the dead) the men never ſtirring in that caſe, unleſs the burial be to be in ſome other Village, which is frequent by reaſon of a cuſtome they have of burying every body in the Town they were born, and then they attend the Corps with their weapons in their hands; but this perſon I ſaw being buryed hard by, I had the opportunity of being a Spectator of the whole Ceremony.

The Corps being brought to the place of its Burial, the men which inhabited there, digg'd a hole of about four or five foot deep, and put it in, but ſo, as the Earth came not near it, then turning about the Grave, they bid him adieu, with great noiſe and ejulation: that Wife which he had moſt kindneſs for, threw his *Fetiches* into the hole, and at laſt

laid

laid a good part of his houſhold-ſtuff (as his Kettles and Cloaths) by his ſide, and his Arms a top on him: if he loved any thing more than ordinary, as Palme-wine, or any thing elſe, they plac'd it by him, with Rice, Millet, Mays, and whatever they thought neceſſary for the life of man, that he might want nothing whither he was a going. Over his Grave, they ſet up a little Shedd to keep it from the weather, which continues there till it be rotten, without being to touch'd by any one. He which makes the Grave, and buries the dead bodie, has the libertie to take his choice of ſuch things which they put into the Grave with the Corps, and it is look'd upon as a due, if he be not paid otherwiſe for his pains.

If a woman dies in Travail, and the Child dies alſo, they are buried

ried together, and the Infant in the Arms of the Mother.

Theſe Ceremonies being finiſhed, they return weeping and lamenting to their houſes, where both men and women doe waſh themſelves forthwith, after which they eat the Beef or the Mutton which was bought, paſſing the reſt of the day in feaſting, and jollity, only every year they carry meat and drink, and ſet it at his grave, leaſt he ſhould be hungry or thirſty in the other world.

Of their old Men, their Slaves, their Lame, their Servants, the Diſeaſes they are uſually ſubject to, with their Cures, and the way to prevent them.

THough there is but little love loſt amongſt them, and the men, and the women (unleſs it be

be their first Wives) quit one another as they please, yet they are troubled and concern'd when it happens. So great an aversion have these people against idleness, that amongst them the aged men and women are not allow'd it, but are constrained to get their livelyhood by such imployments as their age and infirmities will bear, some of them being set on worke either to blow the bellows in some forge, to supervise the business of the house, or some such trifling affaire which requires not much paines: the lame, and such as by any other means are rendred incapable of working, are forced to the wars, or if unable for that, they are sent to sell and barter for their Commodities at the Market, or else assist at the making of their oyle of Palme, make Mattresses, or what else their strength will admit. They

They have not many Slaves upon this Coaſt, it not being permitted to any but the Nobles, to Trade in that nature, by which means they are not allow'd to entertain any but for their neceſſary ſervice in their families or fields.

Theſe Slaves are commonly ſuch poor miſerable Creatures, as having not where with all to maintain, or keep themſelves alive; are glad to ſell themſelves to the rich Merchants of that Countrey (that are all Noble-men) who to know them from others, doe give them always a particular marke of their own, if they endeavour to eſcape, for the firſt time they cut off one eare, and for the ſecond the other, if they attempt it a third time and be taken, they either ſell them away, or cut off their heads, as they pleaſe. The children of theſe poor people are

Slaves

Slaves as well as the Parents, and obliged to doe whatever they are commanded, as watring their ſilh; ſpinning *Raſade*, &c.

The King has ſeveral ſort of Slaves; ſome like theſe I have mentioned; others which are fortifyed to him for want of paying their Fines, or other penalties impoſed for ſome fault they have committed: and both of them ſent commonly to be ſold at the place ſet apart for the Trucking of Slaves.

The Kings Slaves are diſtinguiſhable from other men, only by this that they have no hatts, but go always naked with their heads. The Inhabitants will not be called *Mores* (which is an appellation they ſay belongs more properly to their Slaves) but *Pretos* which is as much as *Negroes*. They generally uſe their Slaves very well, ſeldome or never giving them any correction. Though

Though they have not ſo many diſeaſes amongſt them, as we, yet they are not without their ſhare, and thoſe as troubleſome as ours: the moſt frequent are the *Neapolitan* diſeaſe, pains in the head, burning Feavers, (which for the moſt part are occaſion'd by their women) the Chollick, and worms which grow betwixt the fleſh and the skin, to which ſtrangers alſo being ſubject, I ſhall ſpeak a word or two anon.

For the *Neapolitan* diſeaſe (which is not infamous amongſt them), they uſe only *Salſeparilla*, which they boyl in a Skillet to ſuch a height, and then ſtreining it, they uſe it as a diet-drink, and (as they ſay themſelves) with very great ſucceſs.

Their pains in their head, they cure by fomentations made of certain hearbs which they lay upon the

the Patients face, and it takes the pain away immediately. Sometimes they raiſe little bliſters upon it, which then applying to them a certain kind of Earth they have amongſt them, it aſſwages and cures them alſo.

The Chollick, and Wind in the Stomach, is not over frequent amongſt the Natives, but all Strangers are much ſubject to them, till they be accuſtomed to the Air of that Countrey.

To prevent and fortifie ones ſelf againſt them, it is good to bind about the Stomach very hard, to keep ones ſelf warm in the night with a Waſtcoat, or ſome other thing, and if notwithſtanding all this, it be not prevented, it is not amiſs to take four or five drops of balm of Sulphur in a little Strong-water, cover ones ſelf well, and ſweat, the next day let blood,

blood, then purge two days after, and 'tis odds but he will be well. 'Tis very dangerous sleeping upon the ground, in three dayes many times they are dead of an incurable cold.

Sometimes they bath them with Mallows, Marsh-Mallows, Pellitory of the Wall, Powder of Cassia, each half an ounce, then they boyl it upon the fire to a certain degree, and put ten or twelve drops of Oyl of Anifeeds amongst it, which makes it soveraign; but the best way of all is to keep the Stomach warm, and have a great care of sleeping upon the ground.

As to the worms which grow betwixt the skin and the flesh, Foreigners are as much subject to them, as they: they breed over all the body, but principally in the thighs, leggs, and most fleshy parts. Sometimes they have them two

years

years together, and never perceive it till about a fortnight before they come out. By the report of those who have had them, there is no torment like them, and it exceeds the most violent pain in the teeth.

There has been great inquisition into the cause of it, some attribute it to their Palme-wine, others to the Fish which is eaten upon that Coast, others to their Water, every one arguing according to his fancy, but all of them wide of the Mark; for those *Mores* who live but forty leagues up higher into the Countrey, know nothing of it at all, nor are in any danger of the Evening dew.

The most probable cause is the dew which falls in the Evening upon the Coast, occasioned by the Breezes from the Sea, which being very cold, the *Mores* do constantlie

ſtantlie make fires at their feet when they go to ſleep, and indeed nothing is of more importance to ones health, than to keep off the chilneſs of that Air, and to preſerve ones ſelf as warm as one can. The ill water they drink, together with the naſtineſs of their diet, may add ſomething, but 'tis the nipping Winds and Rains which fall upon the Coaſt, and makes thoſe parts ſo ſubject to worms: in *June*, *July*, and *Auguſt*, (which are the moſt rainy months amongſt them) experience tells us, thoſe worms are moſt apt to engender. In ſhort, every drop of their Rain is bigger than a large Pea: if in a ſhower of that nature, one be wet never ſo little, and lets his clothes dry upon his back, beſides that in three days his clothes ſhall be rotten, if he has no worms, he ſhall be ſure of a diſtemper

ſtemper that will be very dangerous.

We may affirme therefore 'tis the raine, as well as the dew, which produces theſe worms; how, or which way, I leave to the Philoſopher, and Phiſitian to reſolve; but this I am ſuer, having many times put out a bitt of fleſh in the raine, or in the evening dew, I found as ſoon as the beams of the Sun glanc'd but upon it, it turn'd all into Worms, which experiment I made very often, and am convinc'd by it, that they come but thoſe two wayes, either by the raine or the dew. Of thoſe Worms which grow in the body, there are two ſorts, one leſſer, the other greater, and ſome of them as ſlender as a haire; the leaſt are half a foot long, the larger a foot, and ſome there are of an elle, but very rarely.

When

When you are once plagued with them, there is nothing to be done till they are out, which is evident by the humours they raise in the flesh, and the swelling of the part where they lye. There is nothing like keeping one's bed, and opening the corner of the skin gently with a knife to give them free passage, if they perceive them advancing, they may hasten their journey, and pull them out by little and little, if they find any stop or reluctance in the Worm, they must let them alone (least they break them) and tye a haire or piece of silk about them, to keep them from going back: sometimes several of them will come out at one hole, but they must have patience, for their motion is but slow: above all things they must have a care of breaking them, for they are of so venemous a quality, there

is

is no way to preſerve the perſon againſt its virulence, but by cutting off the part. When they are out, they uſually rub the place with butter and ſalt, and waſh it with Sea-water, which in that caſe is ſoveraign.

Their beſt way to ſecure themſelves againſt them, is to put file-duſt into their breeches & ſhooes to keep their feet dry, and if at any time they be wet, to change their clothes and their drawers immediately, by no means to ſleep upon the ground, to have a care of the *Seraine* or evenings dew, to bind themſelves up cloſe, and keep their ſtomacks warm, to abſtein from Women, to uſe confection of *Hyacinth*, *Alkermes*, or *Clarie*, to keep ones ſelf clean, avoide the raine (which the *Mores* are as feard of as the plague, ſhutting up themſelves as ſoon as it begins but

to

to mizzle; if one be wett, to dry his cloths, and by theſe obſervations they may be probably prevented. I ſaw a perſon of quality who had been their ſeventeen years, who told me he had never been troubled with them but the firſt year, and that was for want of theſe cautions. But to continue theſe ſtories of death and diſeaſes, is but to make the reader *chagrin* and melancholy; it is time now I ſhould to ſomething of more pleaſure and divertiſement.

Of their Dances, and Feaſts, both private and ſolemne.

THe Inhabitants of the Coaſts of *Africk*, are great lovers of Muſick, and ſongs, but eſpecially of dancing, in which they ſpend two or three hours every evening before they go to bed: to this

this purpoſe the men and women both, dreſs themſelves as fine as they can, putting on their bracelets of Gold, and Ivory, and trimming up their hair; the men carry little fanns in their hands, made of the tayls of Elephants, or Horſes, (like the beaſom of feathers wherewith pictures are duſted, ſaving that theſe are gilt at both ends) and meet all at a place about Sun-ſet; Being come together, thoſe who make the Muſick, draw into a corner by themſelves, their Inſtruments are a kind of Drum, or Tabor, made of the trunck of a tree, hollowed: A Cane with ſeveral holes in it, like a flute, a *Tambour de Baſque*, and an inſtrument ſomething near our Guitars, with ſix ſtrings; all which playing together, make no contemptible harmonie. As ſoon as they ſtrike up, the men

and women divide immediately, and putting themſelves (two and two) directly againſt one another, they begin their dance, marching up to one another, and then recoyling in good meaſure, clacking their fingers, as they paſs nodding their heads, whiſpering certain words into one anothers ears, toſſing about their fanns, with a thouſand poſtures and geſticulations, and in this manner ſpending the evenings till they go to bed: this dance is not much unlike one of our *Filoux* in *France*; ſome of their women and maids will take a Hoop and throw it upon the ground, then skip, and dance about it, and at laſt take it up with their toes. In ſhort, dancing is in ſo great requeſt amongſt them, they have Schools on purpoſe to teach them.

Beſides Sundays, they have particular

ticular Feſtivals, and particular dances belonging to them; for the dayes which are obſerved by their Kings, I ſhall ſpeak of in a chapter by themſelves.

On the 26 of *April* being at *Frederisbourg*, I ſaw one of theſe Feaſts, which are commonly inſtituted in memory of ſome advantage befaln the State: This that I was at, was celebrated by the King of *Fetu*'s Son-in-Law, who had gain'd a great battel againſt the King of *Acanis*, and the Lord of *Abrambou*, on the ſame day the year before, in which ingagement as the General of *Frederisbourg* told me, there were ſlain on both ſides above 5000 men. The Feſtival began at *Cape-Corſe*, where the Son-in-Law lived, who made a great Feaſt, diſtributed largely to all that were there, who troubled themſelves that day with

nought but their ſports, and at night came to finiſh their ceremony at the Caſtle of *Frederisbourg*; we were juſt ſetting down to the Table, when on a ſudden we heard a great noiſe of ſhowts and acclamations, and immediately their Drums and their Trumpets ſtrike up. Their Trumpets are of Elephants teeth made hollow: We perceived preſently it was the Kings Son-in-Law, with his Drum before him, fifteen or twenty Trumpets, about a douzain of his Wives, and about 60 Slaves after him, two of which attended him with great Bucklers, carryed on purpoſe to cover him, and two others with his Darts, his Bow, and his Arrows. The Women were dreſt in Damask and Taffaties, which they wrapt about them from their breaſts, to their mid-legg, wearing ſeveral *Fetiches* upon

upon their heads, ſeveral little plates of gold in bracelets, about their wriſts and ankles, or elſe of *Raſade* or Ivory, there hair very well dreſt, according to the mode of that Countrey: the Kings Son-in-Law had a piece of blew Taffaty about his waſt, whoſe two ends were drawn betwixt his leggs, & trail'd almoſt upon the ground. Before him he had a little faulchion carryed, he had a Cap trim'd with pieces of the skulls of ſuch perſons as he had killed, and covered all over with plumes of feathers: on his armes and his leggs he had ſeveral little pieces of gold excellently well wrought, and two little fanns in his hands, made of horſe hair; When they were receiv'd into the Court, after a hundred ſhowts and acclamations, the men put themſelves on one ſide, the women on the other, and

the Slaves, Trumpets, and Drums, behind him, who ſounded as they paſs'd, and made all the noiſe and clamour was poſſible; having ſeparated themſelves, they began their approaching and retiring with great exactneſs, turning themſelves this way and that way about half a quarter of an hour: after this he gave his two fanns to one of his Slaves, and taking his dart in his hand, he pretended to dart it at the women, who were doing the ſame thing on their ſide, but the Slaves got about him, and cover'd him quite with their bucklers: this having laſted a pritty while, on a ſudden he claps his hand upon his ſword, and run a tilt at the women, who did the ſame to him with ſticks they had in their hands for that purpoſe, and then mingling themſelves pell-mell with the Slaves (who had ſwords alſo in their

their hands, and made as if they ſtruck them as hard as they could) they gave a great yell, divided again, and ſo made an end of their ceremony.

The General treated them very kindly with Strong-waters and other things, and whiſper'd to me, that their manner of fighting was at that rate; in ſhort, this Son-in-Law of his Majeſty was not quit of this fopperie at leſs charge then 500 Marks of Gold, from thence he went to the Governour of the *Mores* in *Frederisbourg*, to paſs that night with him, and as we heard, he ſtay'd very graciouſly with him till the next day at noon.

Of their Exerciſes, their Workmen, their Trades, their Merchandiſes, their Fiſhing, which way it is uſed, and the Duty they pay to their King.

AS they have ſeveral Trades and imployments amongſt them, ſo are they very conſtantly imploy'd, eſpecially if there be no Ships upon their Coaſts to divert them. They have Goldſmiths which work very curiouſly, they have Carpenters that make their *Canoes*, they have people that Fiſh, they have others that cutt down their wood, the women in the mean time keeping their Markets, and ſelling their Commodities to Merchants which come higher out of the Countrey.

Thoſe who come aboard to negotiate with us, are commonly Offi-

Officers, or Captains of ſome Town, who are all of them Merchants: their manner of coming aboard us, is in a little *Canoe*, very neatly made, rowed by two *Mores*, the Merchant in the middle upon a little chair, with his ſword lying by him.

Being of ſeveral places, they have a different way of Trading, thoſe who live farther up the Countrey, and are neither acquainted with the language, nor manner of Commerce, which is practis'd by the Whites, are conſtrain'd to make uſe of a ſort of Brokers to negotiate for them, and doe uſually give them good recompence for their paines; this is an advantage accrews particularly to ſuch as live near the Sea-ſide, & (ſo generally are they devoted to their profit) the greateſt Merchants amongſt them will not refuſe the

imployment, if there be the leaſt proſpect and expectation of gain.

Moſt commonly, it is thoſe who live upon the Coaſts, or within ten leagues diſtance of the Sea, that buy up the Commodities which are brought in by ſuch Ships as come into their Roads, and ſell them afterwards when the Ships are gone, to the Inlanders, ſeldome for leſs profit then ſix *per Cent.*

Having been deceived ſometimes formerly, they are now grown ſo ſubtil and wary, there is no cheating them any more; it is our buſineſs now rather to be upon our guards leaſt they be too cunning for us. They have ſo great judgement, and inſight into Merchandiſe, they will diſtinguiſh whither a piece of Saye be dyed at *Leyden* or *Harlem.*

When their bargains are made,

and

and their buſineſs done, they fall a begging and bawling for ſome preſent or other (which they call *Dache*) and will never be ſatisfyed without it. The *Hollanders* brought up this Cuſtome at firſt, to cajole, and worke them off from the *Portugais*: But what they did voluntarily then, is become now ſuch a Cuſtome, that ſome of the *Mores* are ſo confident, as to demand what preſent they ſhall have, before they will admit any propoſition of Traffick.

They have one pritty odde kind of ſuperſtition amongſt them, if a Merchant ſneezes as he comes out of his houſe, and turns his head by accident, towards the right hand, (which they call *Eninfan*) they believe they ſhall run a great hazard of looſing their goods that day. If he turns it to the left (which they call *Abnicon*) though they

they were ſure to gain the profits of a Kingdom, they would not ſtir out that day from their houſes.

When they return from our Ships, they have alwayes ſtore of boys, and young fellows attending upon the ſhore, to carry the Commodities they have bought to their houſes, for which the Merchant gives them ſome little pieces of gold as a reward. Thoſe who live higher up the Countrey, have all their Commodities brought down upon the backs of their Slaves, making no uſe of horſe, or any other Creature in that buſineſs, which is no ſmall inconvenience to a Merchant that comes a hundred leagues to us croſs the Countrey, and forces them to travel with their Arms.

Fiſhing being their principal imployment, every morning there are twenty or thirty *Canoes* to be

ſeen

ſeen ſailing out of their harbours, & dividing themſelves inſtantly into all quarters when they come out to Sea. In each of them they have commonly two men, one to fiſh, and the other to manage the *Canoe*, and by them they have their Swords and their Victuals. Their *Canoes* are very neat and beautiful, painted and adorned with all poſſible care; they faſten *Fetiches* to them, to preſerve them from ſtorms and diſaſters, and when they have done fiſhing, they draw them up under a place on purpoſe to keep them dry. They are ſo light, two men will carry one of them as they pleaſe.

In this manner they go a fiſhing every morning, yet not ſo much by deſign, as by natural impulſe, the wind from the hills forcing them as it were to Sea, and altering at night, and blowing hard upon the

ſhore

ſhore, they are brought home again by the ſame neceſſity and violence: and this they do conſtantly every day but *Sunday*, never failing, when the weather will endure it.

The moſt general way of fiſhing, is with little hooks, of which they faſten twenty (ſometimes) to one line; others make uſe of lines with a kind of ſlipping nooſes, but this is as rarely at Sea, as it is ordinary in their Rivers, and Lakes within Land. They are much delighted with fiſhing in the night, which they do by the light of Torches greas'd over with Oyl of Palme, or Roſen, hooking the fiſh up as they come near them. Others go up to the bellies into the Sea, with a lighted Torch in one hand, and a Nett in the other, which they throw over them with great dexterity; and

from

from hence we may collect how industrious they are, neglecting no time, nor labour, to get themselves a livelyhood. At their return, they are attended by several boys, who are alwayes waiting in the harbour to help them home with their fish, and to make up their Lines and their Netts for them, for which pains, they usually gratifie them with some little present of fish.

But the Fisherman and Merchant are no sooner return'd, but the Receiver of the Office (in which the Duties and Customs are paid, for the King in whose Dominion that Port is) stands ready alwayes to receive them, and to carry with him a full third of whatever they bring on shore) to bring the Merchant to a higher composition, for there being no fixt prices set, it is the Merchants

business

buſineſs to get off as cheap, and the Receivers to hoyſt him as high as he can: beſides theſe duties, the foreign Merchants which are not of that Kingdom, are oblig'd ſometimes to give a Mark of gold more for a free paſſage thorow the territories of the neighbouring Princes.

But thoſe who live upon the Sea ſide, are exempted from any tribute in this nature, provided the worth of their Merchandiſe exceeds not two ounces of gold at one time, if it does, they pay as other people.

The duty upon their fiſh is paid punctually to the Receiver every day, who as punctually ſends it every day to the King; not one Fiſherman daring under a great penalty to ſell one morſell till it be paid, this tribute being deſigned to the ſuſtenance of his

Royal

Royal Family; for which reaſon, whatever fiſh is taken, is brought immediately to the Office, where the Receiver has a great meaſure about the bigneſs of a Peck, which he fills, and delivers frankly to the Fiſherman; that done, he meaſures the reſt, and reſerves a fifth part for the King, which is ſent away preſently by the Slaves, for the uſe of the houſe. Theſe Receivers are for the moſt part, the Sons, Brothers, or near Relations of their Kings.

Of

Of the Kings of thoſe Countreys, their Courts, Authority, and manner of living with their Courtiers, of their Wives and Children, of the Succeſſion of their Kingdoms, their Revenues, Feaſts, Deaths, Burials, and Elections of another King.

THe Kings being the chief heads of ſo many people, I ought in juſtice to have given them the preceedence, and have ſpoken of them in the firſt Chapter; but having never ſeen them my ſelf, and what I write is but from the report of ſuch as have lived there ſix or ſeven year, I have thought it beſt to put this, and the three ſubſequent Chapters by themſelves, having been an eye-witneſs of what I have writ before, and what I ſhall write hereafter of the Fruits

and

and productions of that Country: But theſe Chapters I took out of the Memoires of the General, and Miniſter of *Frederisbourg*, who are in the Kingdom of *Fetu*: and as their manners and cuſtoms all along theſe Coaſts are every where the ſame, ſpeaking of one, I ſhall give ſufficient proſpect, and information of them all.

The King of *Fetu* as they repreſented him to me, is no unhandſome man, he is a great lover of the Whites, and has expreſt it upon ſeveral occaſions; he is about five and forty or fifty years old, Majeſtick, requires honour, and reſpect, rich, and very liberal, he has come many times to viſit the Governour of *Frederisbourg*, and made him ſeveral preſents: Liberality is very ordinary in theſe parts, and uſed, to inveigle the people, and oblige them

them to parties: He keeps a great Court, passing away the time in drinking and laughing in a great Hall in the middle of his Palace; about Sun-sett, he sets himself down at the Gate, drest very fine with his bracelets and necklaces of Gold, and clad in the richest habits can be bought for money; in this manner, if he be at peace, he passes away his time with his Ladies, whose principal business is to wash and keep him neat against night, at which time he has dancing constantly and balls.

His subjects have all of them a great veneration for him, and are in much awe and apprehension of his displeasure, by reason that whoever amongst them has but once disobey'd their King, he is *ipso facto* by the Laws of that Kingdome, made incapable of any publicke office. His authority is so absolute

abſolute, he does what he pleaſes himſelf, and no body dares to controul him.

He has always a great number of Slaves and Soldiers guarding his Palace, which is very large, and neat, and incomparably much handſomer then a houſe he has near the Sea-ſide: it conſiſts of above two hundred chambers,& is built in the midſt of a Town, with large Courts round about it; when he goes abroad he is always attended and carryed upon the ſhoulders of his Slaves, all people endeavouring to pleaſe him where-ever he comes.

To gaine the affections of his Courtiers, and the Grandees of his Countrey, above all things it is neceſſary he be Noble, for they hate avarice, and look upon it as ignominious in a great perſon, on whom all people doe depend,

to

to be too parſimoniouſly intent upon hoording up gold; Yet this liberality that is look'd for, conſiſts only in treatings and banquets, which he makes very often for them, and if the Whites at any time make him a preſent, he diſtributs it amongſt them, if it be of Strong-waters, he drinks it merrily amongſt them, preferring their company, in that caſe, to his Wives and Children, to whom notwithſtanding he allows a proportion.

He has as many Wives as he pleaſes, who are all diſpoſed into ſeveral appartements, with whom he dines or ſups ſometimes as he thinks good, but very ſeldome, when they go abroad, they are carryed likewiſe on the ſhoulders of their Slaves: they are abundantly prond, and imploy their whole time in diverting and indulging the King; ſome of them

are

are admitted into his company after dinner in the great Hall, and are very happy if they may but wash and dreſs him in the morning, they having ſervants enough to diſpatch what elſe is to be done in the houſe: when they have ſpruc'd him up, they fall to work upon themſelves, combing, and curling their haire in ſeveral poſtures; their cloaths are very rich always, and loaden ſometimes with ſuch aboundance of Gold, it is a wonder which way they can bear them.

Whilſt their Father lives, their Children are brought up at the charge of the publick: when they go abroad out of the Palace, they are carryed by their Slaves likewiſe, and have always their Trumpets, and one Drum: by which formalities they are diſtinguiſh'd from other people, and as they paſs,

paſs, receive great honour and reſpect.

The ſucceſſion of the Kingdome goes not to the Children, as it does in *Europe*, but devolves upon him that is next of Kin to his Majeſty, that the Crown may be ſure never to go out of the Royal Family: for this reaſon the Kings Children make hay whilſt the Sun ſhines, and lay up what they can whilſt their Father is alive: they work and take pains to as well as the reſt, having no other advantage but exemption from tribute, living alwayes with their Father; whilſt he lives himſelf, they have opportunity of getting and laying up againſt an evil day. If they marry, the Father gives them only the quality of Nobles, not but he would willingly do more, but dares not: the greateſt priviledge they have, is to keep Slaves, but the

the King disposes of all as he pleases. The principal Offices of the Kingdome, are reserv'd for them, as well as the chief Commands in the Armies in times of war: In time of peace they are sent frequently as hostages to other Princes, to secure their Leagues, and to inform themselves of their manner of Government: If they be brave men, and generous, they are respected when their Father is march'd off, but if covetous and base, on the contrary they are abandon'd by their relations, and contemptible to every body else; they will oftentimes complaine that their Father durst not doe any thing indirectly to inrich them, that they are poor, and indigent, and yet have vast treasures conceal'd.

The Revenue of the King consists in Fruit, Fish, Wine, Oyle of

Palme, Millet, Rice, Mays, Flesh, and whatever else is necessary to the life of man; all which are brought in dayly to his Palace, that he may have no cares upon him, nor no room left for any thing but diversion.

The Revenue of the Estate arises from the Customs and Fines which are adjug'd to him in Civil and Criminal cases, which the Receivers deliver every three Months to his Treasurer, who makes the whole disbursement, both for matters of State, for the expence of his Court, for the payment of the Souldiers in time of war, for his privy purse, buys all the Cloths for the King, his Wives, and his Children, upon which score, he never stirs from him, accompanies him where-ever he goes, and has an appartement in his Palace; this Office of Treasurer,

ſurer, is the beſt Office in the Kingdom, and the Treaſurer is in more repute amongſt all people, then any child of the Kings.

Beſides *Sundays* (which the King paſſes ordinarily after his devotions are ended amongſt his Wives & his Children) he obſerves ſeveral Feſtival dayes, in which buys up all the Palme-Wine, and Fowle the Peaſants bring that day, and regals the Treaſurer, his Courtiers, and Nobles of the Countrey, in the company of his Wives and his Children.

The firſt and chief Feaſt which he obſerves, is on the day of his Coronation annually, which they call the Feaſt of *Fetiches*: on that day he invites not only all his Nobles, but his neighbouring Princes, and whatever Whites are upon his Coaſts, who ſend him preſents at that time, and are pre-

sent themselves if they have any designs upon his friendship: If they come upon the invitation, he receives them very well, feasting them for three dayes together, and entertaining them with *Balls* and dances, and whatever may contribute to their recreations, to which they doe wholly devote themselves; after they have past their devotions, (which are finish'd to their *Fetiches* usually in a morning) and after they have left them meat and drinke at the foot of some Mountain or Tree, to refresh themselves if they happen to be hungry.

The other Feasts which they observe, are ordinarily in memory of some eminent accident for the honour, or advantage of the State, as upon some memorable victory, or so; in which cases the *Europeans* are commonly invited, and

 must

must come too, if they mean to keep up a good correſpondence with them. Theſe Feſtivals conſiſt in Collations, Banquets, Dances, & Songs, by all which the liberality of that Prince is very conſpicuous, but eſpecially by his Feaſts. When their King dyes, they expreſs their ſorrow by their complaints, their doleſull Songs, and horrible out-cryes; after the aforementioned Ceremonies are over, he is expoſed for ſome dayes, and in the mean time, his meat and drinke ſerved up to him, as duely as he were a live.

When his body begins to ſmell, two or four of his Slaves take him, and carry him into the Woods, where they bury him as they pleaſe, no perſon yet having ever known where their King was buryed: if any of their Wives follow him, the Slaves kill them, and

bury them together, throwing in their *Fetiches* after them, and then his Armes, Sword, Darts, Bows and Arrows, Cloths, Houſhold-ſtuffe, and whatever he delighted in when he was alive: by his ſide they place good ſtore of Palme-Wine, Rice and ſuch other neceſſary ſuſtenance, and when they have done, they preſent themſelves very demeurly before the Palace to be killed, believing they ſhall be cockſure of the beſt places about their King in the other world.

Whilſt the Slaves are imploy'd in the interrement of the King, the Inhabitants of the Town, run up and down like mad, cutting the throats of man, woman, child, and ſlaves, to make his equipage as they call it, and attend his Majeſty into the other world, in ſo much, that if he be a great Prince,

they

they kill four or five hundred persons sometimes at the day of his funeral. If he loved any place better then ordinary, they set up a Tombe for him there, where his Successor commands all things necessary to be plac'd once every year, least he should want any thing in the world where he is gone.

When their Funerals are over, the next Kinsman is advanced to the Throne, and then conducted with great acclamation to his Palace (which is lock'd up and a Guard set upon it from the death of the former) their next business is to give him possession of all the Treasure his Predecessor had scrap'd up, whose children cannot pretend to any part of it, or of any thing else, unless it be something their Father was possess'd of before his advancement to the Crown.

But this is true, the new King gives ſomething conſiderable allwayes to the Children, and takes care of his Wives, who are matches for the beſt Noble-men in the Countrey. Yet their condition ſometimes is ſo miſerable, that if they have not been good husbands, and lay'd up ſomething for themſelves, they become ſo abject and contemptible, they are forc'd to make themſelves Slaves for ſubſiſtance, and to live in perpetual infamy, to avoid dying with hunger.

This done, the new King makes a Banquet for all comers, and a Feaſt, which continues four or five dayes, during which time he treats all people, the Whites, the Kings his neighbours, and his Nobles, who all of them ſend him their preſents. He takes new *Fetiches* that day, and prays to them after-

wards, renewing this Feast every year, as I have said before.

Sometimes he changes his Officers, and puts in his relations, and friends, but 'tis but seldome, for if they be old that were in before, he lets them dye in their places, not out of any affection to them, but to oblige and captivate the people by such examples of bounty, to whom he gives great largesses that day likewise, and then calling his Wives and his Children to Court, they begin to take State upon them, to leave off beating the Hoof, and to be carryed in great Pompe upon the shoulders of their Slaves.

Of their Nobles, the manner of their making of War, the grounds upon which they doe usually make it, their Armes: of their Cessations and Peace.

SO much are the *Mores* in love with the title of Nobles, they will not baulk any thing can possibly advance them to it, of which there are several sorts amongst them notwithstanding: This honour is acquired two ways, either by some great and honorable Exploit for the benefit of the State, or else by his money: for if a common *More* finds himself rich enough; he must be Innobled immediately, though it drains him never so dry.

The day he is Innobled he invites all his friends, and all the Nobility of the Countrey that

are

are then in the Town. In the presence of the King and his Lieutenant, his Slaves take him up upon their backs, carrying him a pick-pack round about the City; the good women dancing, and singing, and jumping before him all day till Supper comes up and stops their recreations. This Feast holds three days, at the end of which he gives an Oxe to the poor, and a proportion of Palm-wine. He takes new *Fetiches* too that day, and observes it annually with his kindred and friends. 'Tis reported also, that the Nobility have a certain day in which they all meet and feast every year amongst themselves.

The Priviledges which they enjoy above other people are these, they can Trade in every place as they please, they can sell and buy slaves, they may have their drums

and

and their trumpets, and make them play as they think good; but those who are advanc'd for any noble atchievment, have this preheminence, that they have alwayes the principal charges and commands in the Army.

These Kings being perpetually emulous, and jealous of one another to the highest degree, do commonly declare warr upon the slightest occasion; so that upon the least apprehension of injury, the King calls his Courtiers together, tells them his disgust, requires their assistance, and they in hopes of booty and plunder conclude upon a warr. An Herauld is immediately dispatch'd to the Enemy, and a time and place appointed for the battel; his Subjects are advertis'd of the quarrel by his Guards, and a place set for the Randezvous; there is an uni-

versal

versal appearance of joy, every one prepares against that day, as cheerfully, as it were to be his wedding; they paint and adorn themselves with variety of colours, and from that instant conceive a mortal and implacable hatred against their Enemies: if the injury be great, and the warr likely to be long, they take their Wives and Children with them into the field, burning their houses, lest it should be their misfortune to be beaten; and they become a prey to the Foe: if the quarrel be but small, they send them to the next Town where there is peace, to attend their success.

They meet precisely at the day and place, the Captains with Casques upon their heads, some of them made of the Skulls of such people as they have kill'd in the precedent warrs, others of the

Skins

Skins of Lyons or Crocodiles, with plumes of feathers upon them if they have any: on their left arm they carry a large Buckler made of the Skin of a Tygre or Oxe, with a Dart in their right hand; they have no defensive arms, nor any thing at all upon their bodies, but a piece of linnen before, that they may be the more active and agile when they come to be ingaged; before them they have their Swords carryed, behind & of each side, their Slaves with their Bows & Arrows. The common Souldiers are armed with a kind of Battle-axe and Swords, and having of late by their Commerce with the *Europeans* some of them got Musquets, they are look'd upon as brave fellows, and plac'd in the Front.

Being come near one another, they give a great shout, and fall on,

they

they throw their Darts immediately, ſhoot Arrows without number, covering themſelves with their Bucklers againſt the blows of their Enemies; when they once come to the Sword, they are Devils and not men, the very Women and Children kill and ſlay, and adding their cries to the noiſe of the Trumpets and Drums (which are playing inceſſantly) they increaſe the fury in their Parents, and excite them to more inhumanity. The ſlaughter continues till one ſide be defeated, but when they ſee the victorie clear, they give quarter then, and fall a taking of Priſoners, which are made Slaves out of hand, and can never be ranſom'd upon any terms whatſoever.

When the battel is over, ſome of them (as an expreſſion of their hatred to their Enemies, and devotion

votion to their Prince) will eat the bodies of thoſe they have kill'd, but all of them cut off their under Jaws, and hang them afterwards before their doors as a mark of honour; which is the firſt ſtep as it were of recommending them to the Nobility.

As their wars are commenc'd upon frivilous occaſions, ſo they are like a wiſp of ſtraw, no ſooner kindled, but extinguiſh'd. Sometimes they laſt longer indeed than others, but ſeldome any conſiderable time. If after a luſty ingagement, they be any better incliu'd, they agree upon a place, where they meet exactly, bring their *Fetiches* along with them, upon which they ſwear ſolemnly on both ſides, to do no hurt for the future, to retain no malice, nor to remember their paſt hoſtilitie, and for their further ſecuritie, hoſta-

ges

ges are deliver'd, which are commonlie the Sons of the Kings, or (if they have none) the principal persons of the Countrey. The rest of the day is spent by both parties, in mirth, singing, dauncing, and making good cheer, after which, Trading revives betwixt them, and they live as lovingly, as if they had never had warrs.

Whilst we were in that Country, there was a very fierce War brake out upon this occasion, *Abrambou* is a Seigneury which has six Towns under it, independant of any of their Kings, and holding of no body but the Emperour of *Achim* or *Acanis-Grand*. The Predeceffor of him that poſſeſs'd it then, who was dead about four years before, would needs put a duty upon the Merchants of *Acanis* the leſs, and all ſuch as paſt

through

through his dominions, nor was there any of the Neighbouring Kings durst expostulate the busines, so great was his courage and power.

After his death, the Merchants of *Acanis* demanded restitution of such goods as had been taken away by violence before, and were in possession of the present Prince, but they were refused, whereupon those of *Acanis* declared war against him: the King of *Fetu*'s Son being by accident at *Acanis*, ingaged generously with the Town, and was slain in the first battail. His Father having no more Sons, and resenting the loss of him, the more because he was so extraordinarily hopefull, joyn'd himself with the Town of *Acanis*, against the Lord of *Abrambou*, and ingaged all his allyes in the quarrel also, in so much as the war con-

continued above four years, had diſtroyed more then 60000 men, and put a ſtop to all Commerce and Trade; The Generals of the *Engliſh*, *Danes*, and *Hollanders*, uſed all poſſible means to accomodate the difference, but in vain; and in memory of a Battail gain'd by the King of *Fetu* in this war, was the great Feaſt at *Frederisbourg* I have ſpoken of before. There was a quarrel alſo betwixt the Kings of *Fantin*, & *Sabou*, about a Noble-man of *Fantin* who had been in love with a Lady of *Sabou*, and ſtolen her away: the difference not being to be compoſed in an amicable way, both Kings having taken cognizance of it, they were ſo highly incenſed, they fell to war immediately, endeavouring to have ſurprized one another as I have mentioned before, for they doe not always come to a pitch'd-

field,

field, but ſometimes endeavour to deſtroy one another by ſurprizes and in-Roads, by burning, pillaging of their Towns, and taking all priſoners they meet.

The *Daniſh* General told me, that ſometimes a Gentleman (if he were wealthy and rich) would be able to make war againſt his King, ſo ſtrangely are the *Mores* addicted to gain, and indeed it is no wonder having ſo little affection or kindneſs for one another, they will ſcarce give a wounded man a drop of water to ſave his life, but will ſee one another dye like doggs without any relief, and for the moſt part the firſt that forſake them are their Wives and their Children.

At *Frederisbourg* we ſaw a poor creature abandon'd by all people, and the *Mores* admiring how we durſt come near him: but his infirmity

firmity being only an oppreſſion in his Stomach, our Chyrurgeon cured him with eaſe; we ſaw him afterwards merry and drinking with his Camerades, who uſed him then with a thouſand careſſes, though but eight dayes before his Wife and Children had deſerted him, as not knowing his malady.

Of their Civil and their Criminal Juſtice, and of the ſucceſſions of particular men.

AMongſt theſe brutiſh, and barbarous Nations, Juſtice has its place, and all Crimes are puniſhable, though not capitally, but upon great offences. To begin with their Criminal Juſtice, he which is accuſed of adultery, or fellony, is immediately cited by the Judge; who having hear'd what he could ſay, and found his

defence

defence to be impertinent, sets a fine upon him out of hand, which he is oblig'd to pay down into the hands of the Receiver of the Customs. If he be not able to pay it, he is sold as a Slave, and can never redeem himself afterwards. If the Criminal be escaped, his Kindred are to pay it, unless they will choose to leave the Kingdome rather, and that without hopes of ever coming into it again. If the accusation be for adultery, (that is to say with the first Wife of another Man) the Husband has power to divorce himself from her, but he cannot make her a Slave.

If it be matter of homicide, fratricide, or disobedience to his Majesties Orders, they are carryed before the King, as crimes extraordinary: and if the thing be not very foule indeed, he condemnes

demnes them only in a ſum of Money, one half to be pay'd to his Courtiers who are preſent at the Tryal (which is always in publique) and the other to be pay'd into the Kings Treaſury. If the Offender be judged to dye, he is led out of the Town blindfolded, and at the place of Execution, run thorow with a Javelin, his head cut off, and hung upon a Tree, and the reſt of his body cut into mammocks, and thrown into the aire.

If one be accuſed in any Civil, or Criminal caſe, and he deſires to purge himſelf by oath, in drinking, or eating his *Fetiche*, he is permitted, and if he be found dead the next morning, the informer goes to pot in his place, and pays a good round ſum as a penalty to the King: But if there be ſeveral witneſſes which depoſe againſt the Cri-

Criminal, in that caſe he is not allowed to ſwear.

They hate adultery mortally, if committed with their firſt Wives, for which reaſon, they puniſh that as ſeverly as any other Crime, and ſo it happens ſometimes, that out of the malice they doe naturally bear to one another, the Father accuſes the Son, and the Son the Father: If an Offender eſcapes, and is taken again, he has a large fine ſet upon his head, and is made a Slave into the Bargaine, without all hopes of redemption.

In their Civil affaires, whether for debt or any thing elſe, they are cited befor the Judge of that place; which I ſaw my ſelf in the perſon of one called *Pitre* at *Frederisbourg*; being come before the Judge, the plaintiff ſpake firſt, the defendant anſwered, and after they had pleaded what they could

could on both sides, the Judge pronounced Sentence immediately, which is so peremptory and Authentick, their lyes no appeal against it in any other place, but 'tis executed forthwith.

Sometimes the business is so difficult, the Judge will not undertake to determine it, but transfers it to the King, in which cases their anger and indignation is many times so increast, that of Civil Offenders, they become Criminals, and challinging one another, they come into the field with three or four seconds on a side, and a resolution to decide it by the Sword: If one be killed upon the place, the other is obliged to run out of the Kingdom: If he be taken, he is brought before the King, who sets a good lusty Fine upon him, upon the payment of which he is discharged: This act

of grace has such an influence, and authority upon the people, no body dares asperse him in the least with what is past, no not so much as the Widdow nor Children of him that is slain, to whom by the Justice of the Country, a moiety of the Fine does naturally belong: if he has not wherewithall to pay his Fine, he is made a Slave, and delivered up to them to be sold into forreign Countries, after which he is never to appear in his own again.

There was one *Jean Classe* Governour of *Acanis*, who came aboard us every day, he told us, that having fought a duell upon occasion of a Civil affaire, and killed his adversary, he had a Fine set upon him of a hundred and seventy Marks of Gold, and pay'd it every penny to the King.

The Judges are ordinarily the Captains

Captains of the Towns, that the King may have no more Officers to pay then are neceſſary, and that more advantage might accrew to his Treaſury, by the Feaſts and Preſents they are obliged to make him.

For their inheritances (which amongſt us make the greateſt part of our ſuits) they have no controverſy at all, the next Kinſman inheriting always amongſt them, to the excluſion of Wife and Children, who have nothing left them, and are ſometimes conſtrain'd to ſerve for their living, though their Husband and Father dyed never ſo rich; for which reaſon, the good man uſes them to work betimes, that when he comes to dye, it may be no news to them, but that ſubſiſting by their labour, they need not be forced to turn Slaves for a livelyhood.

Of their Beasts, their Birds, and their Fish.

IN these Countries there are but few Elephants to be seen, but great store of Lyons, Tygres, Leopards, Panthers, and other beasts of prey: they afford likewise multitudes of Oxen, Cows, Hoggs, Goats, Sheep, Staggs, Roe-Bucks, Wild-boars, Deer, and Hares, and other beasts which are very good meat, besides Civet-Cats, and Apes, of several kinds.

They have Dragons also, and a sort of great Lizards which are good to eat; they have Serpents of unmeasurable bigness, as also Crocodils, and Camelcons; these last are about the bigness of our green Lizards in *France*, and doe not change their colour as is imagined, but having their skins firm

and

and ſcaly like glaſs, they repreſent variety of colours according to the different reflections upon them, which is the ground of that error.

Their wild Fowle, and Birds of prey, are Eagles, of which they have ſeveral kinds, but one eſpecially, and which is to be found only in the Kingdom of *Acara*; it has the feathers of a Peacock, the leggs of a Storke, the Beak of a Heron, and a Crown of feathers upon the head. The Commiſſioner at *Acara* ſent a live one to *Frederisbourg*, and another dead, which was very good meat, but the live one was ſent to the King of *Denmark*; From hence it is our grey Parrots, with red tayles and wings are brought, which are obſerved to ſpeak ſooner then from any other place: their *Parraquittes* are very beautifull to the eye, they have their bodies and

their heads green, and as ſmall as linnets, their beak and feet like parrets, edg'd with a kind of reddiſh Orange colour, like our goldfinch, their muſick is not very pleaſant, but ſome ſay they learn to ſpeak well enough: they have a thouſand ſorts of little birds of all colours, black, red, yellow, green, and mixt, which they take commonly with netts.

Their Fowle for the Table are Hens, Pigeons, *Pintades*, Geeſe, Dutch and Mallard, Pheſants and Partridge, but ſmaller then ours, Peacocks, Feldifars, Cranes, Ringdoves, Turtles, and Beet in great multitudes; in ſhort they may be ſaid to abound with all ſorts of Birds which are viſible amongſt us, unleſs it be Larks, of which ſort I could never ſee any.

Having ſpoken before of their Fiſh,

Fish, and manner of fishing, I shall say nothing of their Fish again, but of such as are to be seen upon the Coast, having indeed nothing to say of such as are to be found in their Rivers and Lakes, which are farther up in the Countrey.

Their Sea-fish are the Gold-fish, *Bonittes*, *Jacks*, as bigg as our Calves, Sea-pikes; fresh-Cod; Tunny-fish, and Thorneback; Small fish they have in abundance, especially Pilchards, which are fatt and excellently good: they have a sort of flying fish to which are very good meat, and as white as snow: their biggest oysters (of which they have great quantities all along these Coasts) are no bigger then our smallest, but very good meat, as their cockles are likewise.

It is very dangerous washing ones self upon these Coasts, espe-

cially near the Island of *St. Thomas*, in respect of a ravenous sort of fish called *Requiems*, which abound there.

From *Cape Verd* to the Island of *Saint Thomas*, there is a fish which fastens it self always to the Keel of the Ship, and will not be got off: the *Hollanders* call it the Ordure-fish, because it lives only of the ordure which is thrown out of the Ship: it is of the shape of a *Grondin*, but shorter, and without scales, it has the skin of an Eele, is sload and excoriated like that, and has much of its fat, and taste also: it sticks so fast to a Ship by the help of a thing it has upon its head, about three broad and eight fingers long, that there is not a man living can put it off.

Their

Their Fruits, Hearbs, Bread, Millet, Mays, their manner of sowing and making of Salt.

THeir Fruits upon these Coasts are Plums, Pears, Oranges, Citrons, Cuckoe-nuts, and Figgs, but of the last no great plenty.

The General of *Frederisbourg* has made a Garden about Musquet shot from the Castle, where he has Cabbage, and Roman Lettice, which grow very well, they have excellent Mellons, and the ground covered all over with a kind of Purslane; Besides which, they have in many places another hearb they call *Tetie*, in its stalk and leafe not unlike our Rape; it is pleasant to eat, and very good for the Stomach.

They have *Potatoes* good ſtore, which the *Hollander* has brought over, and calls them *Field Artichoaks*, becauſe they have the taſt of our *Ignames*, which is a thick root very white within, which they cut in trenches, as they doe Turneps in *Limouſin*: and this is the bread and ſole nouriſhment of the poore and Peaſants of that Countrey: their Beans, and their Peas are of ſeveral colours, red, black, violet colour, and grey, and a ſort of Lentils in great aboundance, which are eaſily bak'd, and very good meat.

They make their bread of three ſeveral ſorts of ſeed; ſome of them of Rice, which is very white, but heavy upon the Stomach; others of their *Millet*, which is ſomething browner then ours, but has not ſo good a taſt when 'tis made of that alone; the other of

Mays,

Mays or Turky Corne, which is well, and very common, but much better if mingled with the flower of *Millet*, which makes it more pleasant.

When the Month of *April* approaches, they go to the Receiver of the Kings dutys for permission to sow, (all the fields belonging wholly to the King) having obtained leave, they go up and down rooting up the bushes from one side to the other, and then digging it once or twice, they let it lye for a day or two, and then sow it with Rice, Millet, or Mays, for the King or the Governour, and when they have done for them, they begin for themselves.

When they have done sowing, they bring all the bushes they have stub'd up into a corner of the field, and then burn them, singing,

ing, and dancing, and throwing about their Palme-Wine, in honour of their *Fetiches*, to the end they may send them a happy Harveſt: It appears in eight dayes afterwards, and they reap it in three Months; thoſe who have not ſowne, buy their proviſion for the whole year at that time; thoſe who have, and are obliged to go to the Receiver, carry him ſuch a proportion of gold as they think reaſonable which the Receiver carries afterwards to the King, and is very well treated for his paines.

Their *Mays* or Turky Corne, agrees beſt with the Hills, their Millet, and Rice, with the Vallys; they plant their *Mays*, as we doe our Peas, but their Millet, and Mays is ſowen as we doe our Corne.

I did not obſerve many Flowers upon

upon the Coasts, only one whose leaves and stalk were as large as our Mustard-tree: the flower is of an admirable flame colour, but no scent at all, they are most common about the Isle of *Saint Thomas*.

Their Salt is whiter and better then ours, they make it in great quantity in *January*, *February*, and *March*, which they carry up afterwards higher into the Country, and make good advantage by it, but it has this defect, it will not endure their violent heats, but becomes bitter and acide.

Of their Gold, where it is found, and how, with the variety of works they make of it.

THe Gold which is transported in ſo great quantities from theſe Coaſts, that it gives them the Epithet of *Golden*, is taken in ſeveral places.

The Gold of *Axime* is reckon'd the beſt, and is oftentimes found in pieces of two and twenty, or three and twenty Carrets.

The Gold of *Acara* or *Taſore* is ſomething leſs: that of *Acanis* and *Achema* is next, and the worſt of all is the Gold of *Fetu*.

The manner of taking it, is known only by the report of the *Negroes*, and (if they ſpeak truth) is ſeveral wayes.

Thoſe of *Axime* and *Achema* find it in the ſands of their Rivers,

in

in powder: and 'tis to be ſuppos'd would they digg at the feet of the Mountains where theſe Rivers ariſe, 'tis probable they would meet with greater proportions, ſeeing by their own confeſſions, after a luſty ſhowre their plenty is increaſt, upon which ſcore they have this ſuperſtition amongſt them, that when they want Gold, they pray to their *Fetiches* to ſend them good ſtore of raine, and they are ſure to be ſupply'd, as I hinted before.

The Gold of *Acara* comes from the Mountain of *Tafou*, ſome thirty leagues diſtance from the Town, which is three dayes journey up in the Countrey: One of the Captains of the Blacks had a great deſire to have carryed me to the place, and would have left the Kings Brother and Son in hoſtage; but the water failing as

we

we were ready to go, we could not proceed in our design. He told us that the Mine belonged to the King, that there was no more to be done but to digg about the Mountain, and they would have gold enough; that those who found it were to have one Moiety, and the King the other, that he had an in-got of gold before his gate, which by the universal confession of all the *Negroes*, was bigger than the *Fetiche* of the whole Countrey, and taken out of this Mountain.

An Officer at *Frederisbourg*, who has been several times at *Fetu* and *Acanis*, assured me, that those two Kings had each of them before the gates of their Palaces a golden *Fetiche* of a vast bigness, not so big indeed as that of the King of *Fetu*, but yet full as big as a Peck.

The

The gold of *Acanis*, and *Fetu*, is found in the earth by digging, ſometimes more, and ſometimes leſs; he which diſcovers a Mine has one half, and the King the other: it is never above twenty or one and twenty Carretts; it is melted down at neither place, but brought to us aboard, as it is taken out of the ground.

The *Daniſh* General has an ingot of gold taken out of the Mountain of *Tafou* which weighs ſeventeen Marks, and about the ſeventh part of an Ounce. It was a preſent ſent him by the King of *Acara*, when his Army was beaten by the Seigneur of *Acara*, and he protected him in his Fort.

When the *French*, and the *Portugais* frequented theſe Coaſts, the Natives knew not the value of their gold, but ſince other Nations have been admitted, (and the

the *Hollanders* especially) they have learn'd by their earnest desire to have it, that 'tis of more price, and do now hold it so dear, and stand so high in their demands, 'tis almost insupportable.

Besides that, they have found out new wayes of increasing their quantities by adulterating it, and mingling it with little pieces of Copper, which they call *Quaquara*, or otherwise with Brass: the chief place for this Artifice is *Commendo*, where I may say boldly there are the best cheats in the world.

Yet these practices are only amongst the lesser sort of Merchants, of whom great care is to be taken, for they are so ingenious in this kind, there is not a cheat or forgery that can fall under the invention of mankind,

which

which they do not uſe for the circumvention of ſtrangers.

They pretend very much to imitate the *Europeans* in their working of their Gold, and to ſpeak truth they are ſo happy as to ſurpaſſe all the workmen I ever ſaw; their files are much finer then ours, and will make their work as fine as our *Filigranne*.

The King of *Fetu* has a Caſque, and a ſuit of Armes of beaten Gold, admirably well done. Amongſt other things they make great quantities of Bracelets of poliſh'd Gold, and of thoſe *Fetiches* which they wear upon their heads, as thin as paper: But above all things they tranſcend in their hathands which they make of threads, as fine as any haire. Their Kings have their Veſſels in Gold ſtill, their working Goldſmiths making every thing they

ſancy,

fancy, and every thing that comes into their heads.

The Wives and Daughters of their Kings, Merchants, and Nobility of that Country, are so well laden with Rings, Bracelets, and *Fetiches* of Gold, especially when they go to their *Balls*, that they have sometimes in such trifles, to the weight of twenty, or five and twenty Marks of Gold, and the men to thirty or forty.

It is so incredibly plentifull in those parts, that a King upon an ordinary Festival will distribute two hundred Marks of Gold amongst his Courtiers, and sometimes more; for which reason, the *Negroes* delight to have liberal Kings, that their largesses may be more frequent, and the Gold (not being lockt up in their private Coffers) may expend and circulate thorow the whole Kingdome.

Nor

Nor is the dearneſs of their proviſions, a ſmall argument of the plenty aforeſaid; a Fricaſſe of Pullets, bought of the *Mores* will coſt two Crowns at leaſt, a Pot of their Palme-Wine as it comes intirely from the tree, a Crown, and is no more then three of our *Chopines* at *Paris*. 'Tis true amongſt themſelves things are not altogether ſo dear; but having taken up an opinion that the Whites make treble advantage of whatever they buy of them, they ſell every thing they can poſſibly at that rate to them: their fiſh is ſomewhat cheaper indeed, and for ten pence one may have as much as will ſuffice ten men.

Notwithſtanding all the paines I did take, I could never inform my ſelf further concerning their Gold, or their manner of taking it out of the Mines: talk to a thou-

thouſand perſons of it, and they will all tell you ſeveral ſtoryes, not that they are ignorant themſelves, but their diffidence of the Whites is ſo invincibly great, they will never be perſwaded to impart it to them.

Of the return of our Veſſel for Europe.

THe immenſe profits that are made upon theſe Coaſts being obvious to all people, it would be ſuperfluous to ſpeak any more of them: by the univerſal conſent of the whole world, it is agreed that theſe Voyages are more certain and advantagious then any other, which appears by the extraordinary attempts

have

have been made by all Nations of *Europe*, to make themſelves abſolute Maſters there, and evinceth the truth of what I have ſaid, to any one that imagines the contrary, ſo that it remaines now, that I ſpeak only one word of our return.

Having finiſh'd our trading deſigns, we weigh'd Anchor from before *Frederisbourg* the twentieth of *April*, and ſayl'd directly for the Port of *Saint Thomas*, (which is an Iſland belonging to the *Portugais*, ſcituated directly under the Line) to ſupply our ſelves with freſh victuals for ſo long a Voyage. The firſt two dayes we ſteer'd our courſe Eaſt and by South, the two next Eaſt South-Eaſt, and the two next full Eaſt; after which, we diſcover'd the Iſland of *Saint Thomas*, and came to an

Anchor

Anchor before the Caſtle on the ſixth of *May*, ſeven dayes after our departure from *Frederisbourg*, having made in all twenty leagues and upwards.

THE

THE DESCRIPTION of the Isle of *SAINT THOMAS* which lies under the Line.

ON the eighth of *May* we made a visit to the Governour of the Castle, who received us with great civility, but would not be perswaded to permit us to go into the Town; he gave Orders to his Lieutenant to treat us

with all respect, which he was not able to perform himself, by reason of an indisposition that was upon him at that time.

He is a little man, well proportion'd, about forty or fifty years of age, his name is *Acasta*, a fierce quick man, but very civil. That night a Captain of the Fort came aboard us, to whom we gave an account of what provisions we wanted, and the Governour order'd us to be supply'd the last day in Rogation week.

Every day whilst we lay there at Anchor, our men went to a little River which runs hard by into the Sea, to provide our selves with fresh water, which is indeed the best in all *Affrick*, for we kept it a year afterwards, and it was as good and as sweet as the first day.

day. During all the time we were there, not one person of our Crew was permitted to go on shore, but my self, who had that priviledge by being a Frenchman.

I lay on shore three nights, but desiring the Governours leave that our Notary might doe the same for the benefit of his health, he told me for my self all places were free, I might go whether, and buy what I pleased, but for the Notary he could not permit it, he being a *Flemming*; that if our whole Equipage had been *French*, they should all have had the same liberty, but that the *Portugais* had too rational a jealousie of the *Dutch* to allow them a freedome that had not been practis'd since the Island came into their hands; that the Town was then a rebuilding, and that there

ſtill remain'd the foot-ſteps of the miſchiefs and deſolations the *Hollanders* had made there, eſpecially amongſt their Churches, which were very beautifull.

The Iſland of *Saint Thomas* is about ſixty leagues in circumference, it has a Biſhoprick in it, and a Cathedral (which they were then in repayring) not inferiour in bigneſs to *Saint Meredick* in *Paris*, but much more beautifull, and neat, the Muſick and Chapter were maintained at the King of *Portugals* charge: Beſides that they had *Negroes* to their Prieſts, I was much pleas'd to hear the little *Moriſh* Boys, which ſerve there in the Quire, and ſing without Notes or Books, as exactly as our Choriſters in *France*, which I obſerv'd in their Proceſſion, the firſt day of their *Rogations*: all the *Moors* in that Iſland are Chriſtians:

the

the Town consists of about five hundred houses, the most part of Wood; since the *Hollanders* took it, and burn'd it.

The general opinion is, that this Island is not healthful, but they have all things necessary for the life of Man, in that plenty and abundance, that 'tis a Miracle to me considering the heat of the Climat, and the unwholsomness of the aire. The Sugar which comes from hence, is cryed up above all the Sugar in the world.

They have a faire *Castle* built upon the Sea-side, on the East-side of the Town (with its gate towards the North) about the distance of Musquet shot; the figure is square, fortifyed with four good Bastions, lined with Freestone, planted with sixty pieces of brass Canon, carrying from eight, to eight and fourty pound

billet. But so many Authors having writ of it at large, it would but importune the Reader to enlarge any further.

Upon Ascension-day we weigh'd Anchor, and set sayle for *Europe*, having saluted the Castle with five Guns, and received their complement in three, steering South-West, though the wind stood South-East, and is so constantly upon those Coasts, the next day we discovered *Anabon*, another Island in the possession of the *Portugals*; at which place we began to alter our course West-ward, as we did many times afterwards, according to the discretion of our Pilots.

We past on the back-side of *Scotland*, coasting upon the Isles *de Terro*, which are under the Dominion of the King of *Denmark*, and upon the Coasts of *Norway*, where meet-

meeting with some *Dutch* Ships, we received the first news of the Treaty at *Breda*, which was the most remarkable thing in our passage; for our Pilots having been mistaken, and run to the windward more then two hundred leagues too much, I can say but little of our return.

In short, on the 29th of *August* we found our selves at the mouth of the *Texel*, where for want of a faire wind our Ship was forc'd to ride at Anchor till the first of *September*, at which time we entred, and on the fourth following came to an Anchor before *Amsterdam*, where all the Officers, (except the Captain and the Secretary) were arrived the last of *August*, by the convenience of a shallop with Oares, which do usually come out to all such Ships as are to go into the *Texel*, for that purpose.

And

And thus was our Voyage concluded, having spent in our journey, our stay, and return, about nine Months and a half, without any disaster, or the loss of more then one man, who dyed as we were passing the Line, of a dissentery he had got at the Island of *Saint Thomas*, by eating too great a quantity of their Sugar, and sweet meats, all the rest both Officers and Soldiers were continually in health, lively, brisk, and well disposed, without the least malady or sickness in the world. For which God be praised.

FINIS.

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